Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What do you use: paper, plastic, or reusable bags?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Tough Times

With the economy in a slide and the housing market in crisis, states are collectively rolling up tens of billions of dollars in budget deficits.

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RM Awardees

A female Philippine provincial governor is among the winners of the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

MAHARLIKA...Page 13

Hospitalized

Elizabeth Taylor was hospitalized for an undisclosed reason but was expected to return home soon.

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CHC, Fitial ink accord with Japanese hospitals. **PAGE 2**

Many alien workers seeking new employers. **PAGE 3**

Panel: Shelve bill giving status to long-term alien workers

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives should shelve a bill granting improved immigration status for long-time guest workers in the Commonwealth, a legislative committee said.

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has issued a report recommending the filing of the measure, which proposes to allow eligible alien workers to live and work at will in the Commonwealth.

But Rep. Tina Sablan, one the bill's

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New law OK'd for Aggreko deal

IN BRIEF

- New law exempts emergency power contracts from PUC review
- Next: MPLT meets Monday to OK release of funds

"We're just waiting for MPLT to make the decision to disburse the money. Until they make that decision, I can't do anything."

—CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved legislation exempting emergency power contracts from review by the Public Utilities Commission.

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'LOOK AT THIS'

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua shows a document to Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb during a break in the session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pre-pregnancy diabetes tied to more birth defects

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Diabetic women who get pregnant are three to four times more likely to have a child with birth defects than other women, according to new government research.

ON THE NET

CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/bd/facts.htm

See DIABETES on Page 4

CDA approves LaoLao resort tax relief

Board agrees to provide up to $18 million tax break

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The multi-million dollar construction project at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort won a major financial boost Friday after the Commonwealth Development Authority approved a plan to provide up to $18 million in tax relief for the project.

After more than three hours of debate over the scope of the plan and the resort's funding projections, the CDA board voted unanimously in favor of it but granted significantly less than the $27.7 million

See CDA on Page 4

Local

CHC, Fitial ink accord with Japanese hospitals

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Officials from two Japanese hospitals traveled to Saipan Friday morning to sign an agreement with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to offer their hospitals' services to CNMI patients.

The agreements between the Commonwealth Health Center and Nagoya City University Hospital and Aichi Children's Health and Medical Center will have an initial term for one year, with the partnerships renewed automatically each year following unless noted.

The CHC developed the partnerships with the hospitals because there were concerns patients with severe cases were not receiving specialized treatment in a timely manner, Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said.

With recent airline cutbacks, patients were forced to go through Guam to travel to many major hospitals. To fly to Honolulu, where the closest U.S. hospital is located, it took seven to eight hours, Villagomez said.

"That's very taxing to the body," he added.

There are daily flights from Saipan to Nagoya, Villagomez said, which also makes it easier for family members to visit patients.

According to the agreement, the Nagoya City University Hospital and Aichi Hospital will follow U.S. laws and regulations, as well as privacy laws and confidentiality agreements, as much as possible.

One of the drawbacks with using Japanese hospitals is insurance. Japan does not recognize the same medical insurance, Villagomez said, so the government must front the payment in order for the patient to receive treatment. Monetary details are then worked out with patients and insurance companies, which, Villagomez said, "can be tedious at best." Because the hospitals are going out of their way to offer the services, it's important they are paid "within a timely basis," Villagomez said. "We can not have them waiting around."

Three babies have been sent to Aichi Children's Health and Medical Center in the past two years, and a fourth will probably be going soon, he said.

No patients have been sent to Nagoya City University Hospital yet, Villagomez said.

"Hopefully, we will never have to send a patient," he added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shigeyoshi Kato and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial sign an agreement at the Governor's Office conference room for Japanese hospitals to offer their services to CNMI patients.

CUC asks Mobil for leeway on fuel payments

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Due to rising oil prices, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is urging Mobil to consider a plan to let it pay for fuel on a 60-day basis to avoid cost overruns, a prospect the company has said it would consider with conditions that CUC cannot meet.

At issue is a series of letters CUC and Mobil have exchanged recently over fuel prices and problems CUC has faced paying fuel bills. In a July 9 letter to the company, CUC executive director Antonio Muna says rapid increases in the fuel prices have created a month-to-month funding gap when it comes to paying CUC's bills with Mobil.

CUC's available revenue in any given month is based on the funds it collected from customers two months prior, Muna notes, a factor that has lead to fuel funding shortfalls as prices rise.

"Considering CUC's monthly revenue stream, which represents collection on billings issued 2 months prior for which fuel charges billed in March are collected in May, CUC is addressing a $7.7 million fuel bill in May with a fuel charge recovery stream that is at almost $6.1 million," Muna writes. "CUC is forced to use $1.6 million of non-fuel charge collections to address the increase in fuel costs."

A 60-day extension of credit terms for CUC's fuel payments to Mobil would prove "ideal," the letter suggests. In an interview Friday, Muna said this proposed plan would let CUC pay for fuel on a rolling basis to account for monthly price increases, "matching the revenue we collect with our outlay for fuel."

Mobil responded to CUC's request with a July 23 letter, saying it would consider such a plan if CUC could provide added financial assurances. CUC's payment problems have cost Mobil an estimated $300,000 already and projections suggest this could climb by another $350,000 before the end of the year, the letter notes.

"The increases in CUC fuel expenses are directly related to global increases in commodity prices," Brian Bamba, commercial manager for Mobil Oil Mariana Islands writes. "We acknowledge the difficulties CUC has faced in meeting its fuel bills because of the rate caps imposed by the CNMI legislature, coupled with equipment reliability issues and the general downturn in Saipan's economy."

However, Muna's July 30 response letter contends that the financial assurances Mobil has requested are "not possible for CUC to satisfy," adding that rising fuel costs—which rose by 29.42 percent for CUC from February to May—are forcing CUC to dip into its non-fuel related funding to close the gap.

"If the price of fuel was stable, requesting for credit terms would not be an issue," Muna writes. "The increase in fuel costs in May of $1.6 million in comparison to March costs would not leave CUC any available funding for payment of non-fuel expenses."

Muna later adds that although CUC is thankful Mobil has chosen to forego penalizing it for recently purchasing less than the amount it had contracted with the company to buy each month, "we can hardly sympathize with Mobil's projected losses of $650,000 when increasing fuel costs can wipe out all available working capital for payment of non-fuel expenses."

In the interview, Muna said talks with Mobil over CUC's fuel payment problems are ongoing.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting to be continued on **Monday, August 4, 2008 beginning at 9:00 AM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107, San Jose; Saipan, MP.**

Original Meeting Date: July 25, 2008

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

II OLD BUSINESS
- CUC Matters - Action on Resolution 08-03

III EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

IV MISCELLANEOUS

V ADJOURNMENT

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

EDUCATIONAL MILESTONE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mount Carmel School principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero, right, recently obtained his master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco's School of Education. Deleon Guerrero is shown here with Margaret C. DelaCruz, left, president of Mount Carmel School, and the president of the University of San Francisco, Fr. Stephen A. Privett, S.J. Deleon Guerrero was selected to be the student speaker for his graduating class.

August 4 is U.S. Coast Guard Day

Aug. 4 is celebrated as Coast Guard Day to honor the establishment on that day in 1790 of the Revenue Cutter Service, the predecessor of today's Coast Guard. On that date, Congress, guided by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton, authorized the building of a fleet of 10 cutters, whose responsibility would be enforcement of the first tariff laws enacted by Congress under the Constitution.

The Coast Guard has been continuously at sea since its inception; although, the name Coast Guard didn't come about until 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service was merged with the Lifesaving Service. The Lighthouse Service joined the Coast Guard in 1939, followed in 1946 by the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection. In 1967, after 177 years in the Treasury Department, the Coast Guard was transferred to the newly formed Department of Transportation. In 2003, the Coast Guard became a member of the Department of Homeland Security where it is today.

Coast Guard Day is primarily an internal activity for Coast Guard active duty, reservist, civilian, and auxiliarist personnel and their families to celebrate the Coast Guard's many accomplishments.

In Guam the Coast Guard 24 hour emergency number is 564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

Many alien workers seeking new employers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Since early part of this year the Department of Labor administrative hearing office has been receiving a lot of applications from alien workers who are seeking transfer to new employers.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody told *Saipan Tribune* they have received many transfer applications since the department started a new system for transfers in the early part of this year.

Under the new system, a transfer to a new employer may be made only by an administrative order issued by a Labor hearing officer.

"Other than this week—I don't know why this week is a little lower—but we have had upwards of 70 applications a week to transfer," Cody said.

He said the closure of garment factories contributed to the increased number of people looking for new employers. Factory workers who want to stay on island are invited to register with Labor's employment services.

"Those workers who don't want to be repatriated, who want to try to find an employer, certainly they are going enter the system. So all these garment closures have resulted in hundreds of people looking for work," Cody said.

He added, though, that many other workers and not just from the garment industry "seem to be looking for work."

"You have 20,000 foreign national workers. And their permits expire at various points. And if they are not renewed that's when they go into this system where they register in the employment services," Cody said.

With respect to workers who still have jobs but want to transfer to new employers, the hearing officer said the old consensual transfer system is void or no longer in operation.

"What we called consensual transfers are not done at the department anymore. So that procedure of having a releasing employer and the accepting employer signing a declaration …all those forms are no longer used. That system was eliminated in the new law …in the Employment Act of 2007," he said.

But Cody emphasized that his understanding is that employers and employees can consult with the Labor director or the director's representative.

He said these are in cases where the worker has found a new employment during the term and wants to move and the existing employer doesn't have an objection to that.

"My understanding is that they can ask for a conference with the department," the hearing officer added.

USNS *Lummus* staff plant trees in Koblerville

The Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron Three staff, a group of 10 military personnel from the USNS *1ST Lt Jack Lummus*—the flagship of a squadron of 10 ships often seen anchored off the Saipan lagoon—participated in last month's Beautify CNMI tree planting activity at the Koblerville Youth Center and Substation.

U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Don Wilson, Community Relations Project Coordinator for the U.S. Navy command involved, said the group's interest in local community involvement was sparked in part after their participation in the 4th of July parade introduced them to the friendliness of the Saipan community.

"We want the Saipan community to know that there are active duty military personnel on the island," Wilson explained in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*. "While most of the community is already aware of our ships anchored off the coast throughout the year, very few people in the community know much about the ships or their assigned personnel.

"The MPSRON THREE Staff is always willing to share our stories with those we meet around the community. Our desire to make our presence known in the Saipan community is definitely what supplied the motivation that led us to volunteer in the efforts of Beautify CNMI," Wilson said.

Because the staff were given short notice about the activity, only four staff members were able to participate. "We look forward to greater participation in the future," promised Wilson.

The COMREL coordinator elaborated on the staff's desire to increase their presence in the community and said, "While the desire to become more active in the Saipan community existed before the command's participation in the 4th of July parade, it did increase our desire to participate in other community functions and activities around the island."

The squadron of ships that the MSPRON THREE staff serve can be seen off the Saipan coast 70-80 percent of the time. Five of the ships are usually anchored off Garapan, while the squadron constantly rotates the other five ships between Saipan,

See USNS on Next Page

LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

As the rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant1, load shedding will continue to be required. However, to conform to the daily power demand the schedule will be expanded to include the entire feeder (1st and 2nd partial) in each of the respective timeslots. Therefore, the load shedding schedule for Aug. 2 through Aug. 8, 2008 will be as follows.

8am -10am
Feeder-2: Entire Grid
Beach Road Garapan at Fishing Base Kristo Rai south to San Jose Intersection

10am - 12pm Kiya 1: Entire Grid
As Terlaje, NMC, portions of Fina Sisu, Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA/Airport, As Perdido

Feeder-3: Laterals
Taro Sue to portions of China Town, Upper Gualo Rai

12pm - 2pm
Feeder-4: Entire Grid
Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden)

2pm - 4pm
Feeder-1: Second partial
99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan, Upper Navy Hill

4pm - 6pm
Feeder-7: Entire Grid
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

6pm - 8pm Kiya-2: Entire Grid
As Lito, portions of Fina Sisu, Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

8pm - 10pm Kiya-4: Entire Grid
Portions of Chalan Kiya, San Jose, Oleai, Susupe, Mount Carmel and south to portions of Chalan Kanoa

Water and Wastewater services will also be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule but it may be modified in future public notices. It may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. ***(CUC)***

'Life in the Spirit' seminar set

The public is invited to a "Life in the Spirit Seminar," a Catholic formation seminar that seeks to discover the joy and beauty of living in the context of God's guidance through the Spirit. A special guest priest from the Philippines will be one of the resource speakers.

Sponsored by the Light and Salt Catholic Charismatic Community, the seminar will be held at St. Jude Parish on Aug. 3 to 4, 2008.

The theme of this year's seminar is Galatians 5:25: "If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit."

The event is divided into two parts:

Part 1: Aug. 3 (Sunday)
9:30am - 10am Registration
10am - 11am Mass at St. Jude
11am - 12pm Complimentary lunch
12pm - 5pm Talk 1-5

Part 2: Aug. 4 (Monday)
7:30pm - 9:30pm
Talk 6-7)
9:30 Dinner fellowship

For inquiries and registration, contact:

- Cely Zamora, 287-4228
- Rheena Trinidad, 287-7015
- Mhabie Parico, 286-0739
- Roma Barloa, 233-2877, 286-7807

Or e-mail us at lightandsaltsaipan@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

HOUSE SESSION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho talks with Rep. Christina M. Sablan while Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Vice-Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero also discuss House issues during a session break at the House chamber on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon.

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DOI sets new conservation mechanism for threatened and endangered species

Washington, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne said yesterday that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed an innovative new tool designed to help federal agencies conserve imperiled species on non-federal lands. The recovery crediting system will give federal agencies greater flexibility to offset impacts to threatened and endangered species caused by their actions by undertaking conservation efforts on non-federal lands, with the requirement that there is a net benefit to recovery of the species impacted.

President Bush first announced this new recovery crediting guidance during his visit to Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland with Kempthorne on Oct. 20, 2007. A draft version of the guidance was later published in the Federal Register on Nov. 2, 2007 for public comment.

"Federal agencies play a key role in the recovery of hundreds of threatened and endangered species, but they cannot succeed without the support of private landowners," said Kempthorne. "This recovery crediting system will make it easier for agencies to work with local communities and landowners to benefit imperiled plant and animal species across the nation."

"The recovery crediting system serves as an additional cooperative conservation tool that will provide incentives for private landowners to conserve endangered species," said Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are required to use their existing authorities to conserve threatened and endangered species and, in consultation with the Service, ensure that their actions do not jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Section 7 applies to the management of federal lands as well as other federal actions that may affect listed species, such as federal approval of private activities through the issuance of permits and licenses.

Federal agencies will be able to use a recovery crediting system to create a "bank" of credits accrued through beneficial conservation actions undertaken on non-federal lands. A federal agency can develop and store these conservation credits for use at a later time to offset the impacts of its actions. Credits must be used to benefit the same species for which they were accrued. The Service will review each recovery crediting system to ensure the net benefits to recovery outweigh any potential impacts that could occur during project implementation. Each proposal will be evaluated on its own merit, and some activities related to particular listed species may not be appropriate for the new credit system.

The program is modeled on a pilot program developed at Fort Hood in Texas involving the Service, the Department of Defense, the Texas State Department of Agriculture and other agencies. Using the pilot recovery crediting system, the U.S. Army has been able to fund habitat conservation and restoration projects with willing local landowners on more than seven thousand acres of private land surrounding the military base to benefit the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. Fort Hood provides important training areas for troops deploying to Iraq and is also home to the largest known population of golden-cheeked warblers in its breeding range. The credits accrued through these off-base conservation efforts ensure that the Army can conduct mission-critical field training at Fort Hood while continuing to benefit the warbler in its home range. Fort Hood has also been able to build important partnerships through this pilot program that will continue to benefit the golden-cheeked warbler and other imperiled species.

"So many of our nation's imperiled species live on non-federal land," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall. "This system will make it easier for other federal agencies to reach out to the American people and work with landowners to do what we can't do alone."

A notice of the availability of the guidance was published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2008. The guidance may also be downloaded from the Service's web site at http://www.fws.gov/endangered/policy/june.2008.html.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 548 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. ***(DOI)***

USNS

From Page 3

Guam, Korea and Japan.

"While it is rare for the ships to be called away all our ships are required to be ready to sail with less than 12 hours of notification," Wilson said. All of the ships are known to leave in advance of extreme weather, but, Wilson noted, "sometimes the schedules all line up and we are all at sea at the same time for training."

The MPSRON THREE staff visit Saipan daily when their work is complete, but because they are all currently serving a one to one-and-a-half year tour in a continuously forward deployed status, none of them live on Saipan. ***(Caroline Lochabay)***

DIABETES

From Page 1

The study is the largest of its kind, and provides the most detailed information to date on types of birth defects that befall the infants of diabetic mothers, including heart defects, missing kidneys and spine deformities.

The study lists nearly 40 types of birth defects found to be significantly more common in the infants of diabetic mothers than in those who weren't diabetic or who were diagnosed with diabetes after they became pregnant.

The study's list of diabetes-associated birth defects is surprising - it's much longer than was previously understood, said Janis Biermann, senior vice president for education and health promotion at the March of Dimes.

"It adds more information about the specific types of birth defects associated with pregestational diabetes and gestational diabetes," said Biermann, who was not involved in the research.

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention led the study, which is being published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. CDC officials released the study Wednesday.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies born in the United States, and cause about one in five infant deaths. The cause of most birth defects isn't known but some risk factors include obesity, alcohol, smoking and infections.

Doctors have known for decades about the threat diabetes poses to pregnancies. Past research has focused on dangers to the infant by the extra amounts of glucose - sugar - circulating in the womb of a diabetic mother. Studies with rats and mice clearly show excess sugar harms fetal tissue development, said Dr. E. Albert Reece, a study co-author, who directs birth defects research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The new study draws from the birth records between 1997 and 2003 at hospitals in 10 states - Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Utah.

The study focused on the 13,000 births involving a major birth defect, and compared them to nearly 5,000 randomly selected healthy births from the same locations.

Mothers were asked if they had been diagnosed with diabetes before or during their pregnancy. The researchers said those who were diagnosed while pregnant either had a temporary, pregnancy-induced condition called gestational diabetes or had diabetes that had gone undiagnosed until they were pregnant.

The study found that there was no diabetes involved in 93 percent of the birth defects.

About 2 percent of the children with single birth defects were born to mothers who had diabetes before they became pregnant. About 5 percent of the infants with multiple defects were born to mothers with that condition. In healthy births, the percentage of mothers who were diabetic before pregnancy was much lower.

The study also showed a wide range of birth defects that included malformation of the heart, spine, limbs and gastrointestinal tract.

"Diabetes is not discriminating" in which birth defects it's linked to, said Dr. Adolfo Correa, a CDC epidemiologist who was the study's lead author.

CDA

From Page 1

tax break the resort had requested.

A key issue in the board's debate over the plan, according to board chair Pedro Itibus, was that the resort had requested the tax relief measures to apply for 25 years, the longest possible under local law, while an analysis by taxation officials suggested the board could consider a shorter timeframe of 15 years, the length on which its members later agreed.

The resort's director and general manager, Tetsuya Matsunaga, praised the board's decision.

"Since we belong to the tourism industry, we will continue to do our best together with our group to reboot the CNMI's economy," he said. "We had plenty of positive and supportive comments from the public and we know that without them, we couldn't have gotten our application granted. Now it is time for us, after 14 years in the CNMI to move to the next stage."

The resort broke ground earlier this year on a $68.8 million golf hotel—or "Golftel," a complex with condominium-style apartments for golf tourists—and has since completed laying its foundation while the project's managers push ahead with expanding the nearby clubhouse and restaurant. In addition, the resort has plans for a teahouse and villas to cater to its high-end clientele, according to construction officials.

According to a report issued by the resort, the CNMI stands to see an estimated $387 million worth of direct and indirect economic benefits after the project's completion.

NEW

From Page 1

The governor's action cleared the last remaining legal obstacle to efforts by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to acquire emergency power from the U.K.-based Aggreko International.

All that is left to be done, according to CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna, is for the Marianas Public Land Trust to release the money for the initial contract payment for Aggreko.

CUC has hired the U.K.-based Aggreko International to provide up to 15 megawatts of temporary power to Saipan. The island is currently suffering constant blackouts due to the poor condition of its power plant.

Under the $6-million contract, CUC must make an initial payment of $1.5 million before Aggreko brings the rental generators into Saipan. Last week, the Legislature passed a law earmarking $3.4 million of future MPLT income to CUC. The earmark includes $1.5 million for the Aggreko deal. The MPLT board of trustees is expected to take up the matter in a meeting Monday morning.

"Right now, we're just waiting for MPLT to make the decision to disburse the money. Until they make that decision, I can't do anything," said Muna.

CUC previously promised to pay the $1.5 million by July 31, 2008. Aggreko, in a letter to Muna, agreed to hold the rental generators up to that date. Muna was scheduled to meet with a visiting Aggreko representative last night to update the company about the situation and ask for more time to make the payment.

"At this point, it's pretty much their call to keep holding the equipment for us. Those generators are very much in demand," Muna said.

On Thursday, the Senate and House of Representatives held back-to-back session to approve the bill exempting emergency power contracts such as Aggreko's from PUC review. The Senate voted unanimously to pass the measure. The bill was immediately sent to the House of Representatives, which voted 9-6 to approve it.

With Fitial's signature, the bill is now Public Law 16-9.

PANEL

From Page 1

sponsors and a member of the committee, said she will draft a "minority report" to argue against shelving the legislation.

Co-sponsored by Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Edward Salas and Victor Hocog, House Bill 16-96 creates a new immigration category of "resident foreign national" for contract guest workers who have lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years. Under the bill, eligible foreign workers may stay in the Commonwealth for five-year periods regardless of their job status.

In its report, the House JGO Committee said it finds it reasonable to allow any person who meets established residency and character requirements to remain in the CNMI under the proposed five-year resident foreign national entry permit.

"Such an allowance will benefit the Commonwealth," the committee stated.

But the committee noted that the recently signed federal immigration law will supersede and pre-empt all CNMI laws related to the entry and removal of foreign workers in the CNMI. The U.S. federal government will take over CNMI immigration on June 1, 2009.

The committee further said that public hearings held on Saipan, Tinian and Rota "produced strong opposition and support of this measure. Both sides produced valid reasoning for its passage as well as its defeat."

Based on these findings, the committee recommended the filing of the bill. The committee report was signed by the chairwoman, Rep. Rosemond Santos, and two members, Rep. Joseph Reyes and Rep. Edwin Aldan. Sablan and Salas, both sponsors of the bill, did not sign the report.

In an interview, Sablan said she was "perplexed" by the committee's recommendation.

"On the one hand, they say that the proposed program would benefit the CNMI. They acknowledge that there were valid opinions expressed for and against the bill. But it seems to me that the primary reason for recommending filing is because of the U.S. federal law. I don't think that that was a compelling enough argument," she said.

She added that the impact of the immigration federalization law on local statutes was one of the issues were taken up during the public hearings.

"Members of the community have said that, while we are still in control of immigration and while we're at the stage that we're drafting regulations, that the CNMI should present something at the table. This bill would be one of them, it would be a starting point," she said.

She said she will write a "minority report" urging the House members to approve the bill. The bill has been recalled from the committee for debate on the floor.

FBI seeking to hire more special agents

College graduates willing to relocate; must pass polygraph

Not all special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation start out with criminal justice careers.

Former schoolteachers, health care professionals, accountants and lawyers are among those who switch jobs to join the FBI, an arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. Its motto is borne out of its acronym: "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity."

About 12,000 of the FBI's 30,000 employees are special agents who conduct national security investigations and enforce federal statutes.

The 18,000 others fill scores of support positions that vary from automotive mechanics to IT specialists.

People fluent in foreign languages remain in high demand as cases, including threats of terrorism, take agents around the globe.

Becoming an agent is tough. With 90,000 applications submitted a year, it's a highly competitive process, said Special Agent John M. Sheridan, based at the FBI's Baltimore field office.

Age requirements are specific. New agents accepted into the bureau must be at least 23 years old and no older than 36.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States, have a four-year degree from an accredited college or university and at least three years of professional work experience.

"We're looking for people with life experience," said Sheridan, a former teacher.

The average age of new hires is 27.

"Agents need to be able to communicate and write effectively," he said.

Agents also must be willing to relocate.

About 2,700 new agents will be hired during the next three years.

Applicants must pass a physical fitness test and consent to a background investigation, drug test and polygraph exam.

Applicants need not apply if they have used illegal drugs in the preceding three years because it could compromise their ability to maintain their integrity, said Special Agent John Coliano.

"It's a humbling experience, becoming an agent," Sheridan said. "You have to remember at all times that you have the ability to take a person's freedom away. You need to understand that power."

For information, go to www.FBIjobs.gov. ***(PR)***

WIA trainees learn the ropes at MVA

Five trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency recently gained valuable experience working in different divisions within the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Marfiana Mosses was assigned to the Accounting Division and learned how to receive customers picking up payments, distribute purchase orders and scan documents for accounting.

"I was nervous on my first day because I thought I would be learning things that wouldn't help me in my life, but I learned a lot from everyone in the Accounting Division. We were one heart and one family," said Mosses.

Tracy Kikku, assigned to be an administrative assistant for the Executive Division, learned a lot during her short period with MVA. She admitted that she did know what the CNMI had to offer as a destination, besides the festivals and other events. She was exposed to secretarial work such as filing and answering incoming phone calls. Besides her secretarial duties, she also enjoyed greeting visitors at the airport.

"Now I understand what a secretary does and I understand how hard MVA works to make our place beautiful," said Kikku.

Odesa Sansi, assigned as the marketing assistant for the Marketing Division, learned a great deal by assisting with some marketing projects. As demanding as it was, she was happy knowing that her supervisors ranked her satisfactory.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Five trainees from the Workforce Investment Agency at the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"My word of advice to the individual who is placed in this division would be to cherish the experience and soak it up like a sponge because a job opportunity like this comes along only once in a lifetime," said Sansi.

Kelvin Simina was assigned to the Personnel & Administration Division as an administrative assistant. He was responsible for a wide variety of administrative duties including answering incoming phone calls, greeting and receiving visitors, assisting with the inventory of supplies and equipment and filing documents.

"What I really like about working at MVA is that everyone was fun to work with. I thank my supervisors for giving me this opportunity to learn new things," said Simina.

Misshen Rupurei was a research assistant in MVA's Research Division. She learned the process of editing custom declaration forms, scanning them and importing them. She also had the opportunity to update hotel listings in the CNMI.

"The most important thing that I learned while working here was that tourism is really important and MVA makes it their business," said Rupurei. "MVA works hard to keep tourism alive in the CNMI!"

MVA's outreach programs educate students through employment experience at MVA and expose them to the CNMI tourism industry.

"We learned a lot from our trainees and they learned a lot from us. I am happy to know that our trainees gained more than occupational skills here at MVA. They also learned the value of the CNMI tourism industry and the impact it has on our economy," said MVA Personnel manager Polly Deleon Guerrero. ***(MVA)***

Beautify CNMI sets weekend cleanups

Beautify CNMI will be hosting two cleanup events this weekend.

Today, the organization will be cleaning up the area around the Koblerville Youth Center and Substation. The event will begin at 8am and is expected to last four to six hours, Angelo Villagomez of beautify CNMI, said.

On Sunday, the group will meet at the American Memorial Park parking lot to pick up trash around the Garapan tourist district. The event will start at 8am and is expected to last an hour, Villagomez said. The event is part of Beautify CNMI's monthly cleanup that takes place on the first Sunday of the month at various locations.

The Koblerville cleanup has been an ongoing project, he said.

"Two years ago it was an overgrown mess. We sort of want to turn it into a public park," Villagomez said.

He said the group goes back every couple of months to clean up and cut the grass. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

SPC's deputy director-general dies unexpectedly

The Deputy Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Falani Aukuso, died unexpectedly at his Suva home on Thursday, July 31.

In announcing his passing, Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General of SPC, expressed his deep sympathy and prayers for Aukuso's family. He said the loss of the Deputy Director-General's warm and generous spirit would be deeply felt by the Tokelau people and by his friends and colleagues throughout the Pacific Community, of which he had been a dedicated servant.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Falani Aukuso, Deputy Director-General, SPC, who died Thursday, July 31, 2008, in Suva.

Details of funeral arrangements are yet to be announced, but Rodgers said a memorial service is planned for early next week in Suva, Fiji, to be followed by services at SPC's headquarters in Noumea and at its Northern Pacific office in Pohnpei. Further information will be available when these arrangements are finalized.

Aukuso, who was born in Tokelau and who was also a citizen of New Zealand, was appointed SPC's Suva-based Deputy Director-General in 2006. In addition to leading the Suva Regional Office, he focused on meeting the special needs of small island states. As a Tokelauan, this was a cause he personally understood and with which he closely identified.

Earlier, Aukuso was Director of Education in Tokelau and in 1990 joined the New Zealand Ministry of External Relations & Trade as a diplomatic officer. In 1994, he returned to Tokelau to head the Office of the Council of Faipule (Cabinet). In 2004, he became the General Manager of the newly established National Office of the Government of Tokelau. He left this post in 2006 to serve the wider Pacific region through SPC. ***(SPC)***

U.S. CITIZEN CHILDREN

U.S. citizen children of alien workers spend their time playing on a canoe while waiting for their parents who are attending a meeting with human rights advocate Wendy Doromal at the Kilili Beach pavilion late Wednesday afternoon. Doromal hopes that parents of U.S. citizen children will find a clear pathway to U.S. citizenship.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

One billion lives

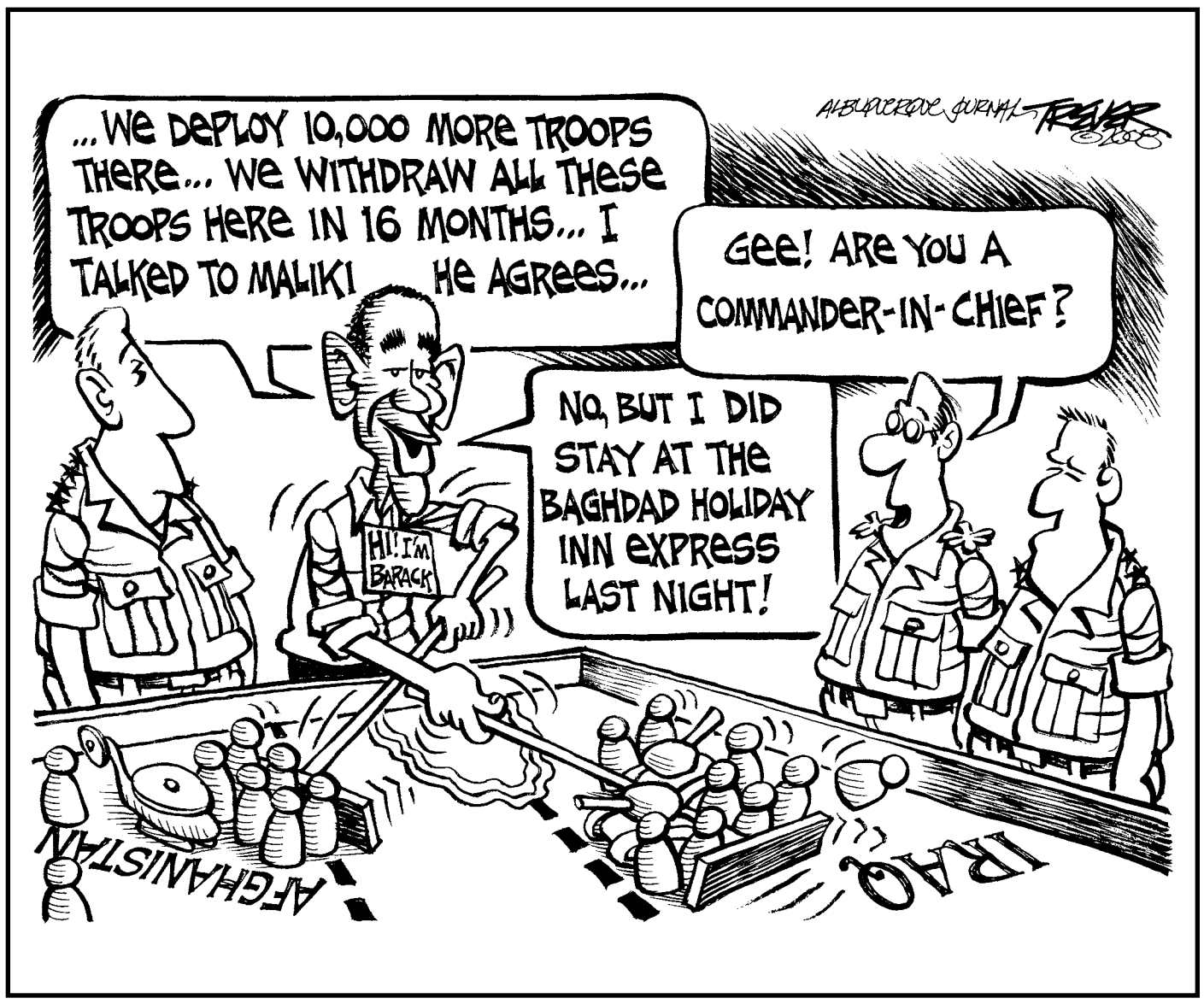
Diseases caused by tobacco killed an estimated 100 million people during the 20th century and could kill 1 billion in the 21st if nothing is done to restrain tobacco companies from pushing their products in the developing world. Those companies show no sign of slowing their marketing campaigns on their own; Philip Morris International's sales, for example, were up 18.5 percent this year over the same period last year in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Tobacco companies are bringing a new public health disaster to countries that can least afford one.

Last week, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use announced a $500 million commitment to combat the global tobacco epidemic. The money will go to MPOWER—a two-year-old program run in conjunction with the World Health Organization that works to: (M) monitor tobacco use and policies to prevent it; (P) protect nonsmokers from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke; (O) offer help with kicking the tobacco habit; (W) warn about the dangers of tobacco; (E) enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; and (R) raise taxes on tobacco. A sizable portion of the money will be spent on researching patterns of tobacco use in Africa to help governments prevent tobacco companies from establishing the kind of strongholds there that they have in other parts of the developing world.

True to its acronym, the initiative seeks to empower the governments of developing countries to regulate tobacco ads and require warnings on cigarette packages, among other measures. Over the past two years, the program has made substantial progress. Today, if you walk into a Chilean convenience store to buy some Derby cigarettes, a glossy image of a bearded man with sparse white hair stares at you from the package. The photograph occupies half of the pack's front, and it doesn't take long to notice the large, burgundy hole in the man's throat. The image is captioned: "Don Miguel, Chilean, Smoked for 20 years. He lost his larynx to cancer." The back of the pack reads, "Caution! These Cigarettes Are Killing You."Such graphic warnings are especially important in countries with low literacy rates, and they are becoming mandatory parts of cigarette packaging around the world.

Even with this unprecedented grant, MPOWER will not solve the tobacco problem in developing countries. In its efforts to hook new smokers, the tobacco industry continues to outspend the public health community. But thanks to stepped-up public health advocacy, not all the trends are negative; more countries, for example, are banning smoking in public places. A half-billion dollars is a big push in the right direction.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post


...WE DEPLOY 10,000 MORE TROOPS THERE... WE WITHDRAW ALL THESE TROOPS HERE IN 16 MONTHS... I TALKED TO MALIKI HE AGREES...
GEE! ARE YOU A COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?
NO, BUT I DID STAY AT THE BAGHDAD HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS LAST NIGHT!
HI! I'M BARACK
AFGHANISTAN
IRAQ
ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL TREVER ©2008

The putsch that imperiled America

By TIM RUTTEN
(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Rutten is a Times *columnist*.

A report released Tuesday by the Justice Department has documented the Bush administration's unprecedented—and illegal—effort to politicize the ranks of the agency's prosecutors and civil service employees with conservatives and true believers in the religious right's agenda.

Under then-Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, a thirtysomething lawyer named Monica M. Goodling—a graduate of a law school founded by Pat Robertson—had virtual veto power over the appointment of U.S. attorneys, other prosecutors and immigration judges. Goodling, as the Washington Post reported, demanded that candidates "espouse conservative priorities and Christian lifestyle choices," especially on issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage. The goal, according to the report, was to create a Republican "farm system" inside the Justice Department.

While Goodling was pursuing that mission, something not dissimilar was going on at the White House. According to an article by New Yorker staff writer Jane Mayer in the latest New York Review of Books, "President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and a small handful of trusted advisers sought and obtained dubious legal opinions (on national security) enabling them to circumvent American laws and traditions." She details how they used these legal opinions to dramatically expand executive power.

When the next administration and Congress begin the urgent work of sorting out precisely how and why the Bush-Cheney regime systematically undermined the rule of law, there are a couple of things that ought to be kept in mind.

One is that their efforts were essentially ideological rather than partisan. That's an important distinction, because although those involved in the White House campaign to subvert legal safeguards of all sorts obviously were Republicans, many Republicans working inside the administration—some of them deeply conservative—gave up their jobs rather than go along with the putsch.

Former Assistant Attorney General Jack Goldsmith, who did heroic work trying to undo the mischief wrought by John Yoo, his predecessor in the Office of Legal Counsel, is one of those. His offense was to tell then-vice presidential counsel David Addington—now Cheney's chief of staff—that, despite Yoo's obliging opinions, U.S. law does not permit torture.

The Navy's general counsel, Alberto Mora, was forced out of his job as well, for trying to stop the abuse of detainees by interrogators at Guantanamo. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Matthew Waxman fought a losing battle to get the United States to abide by its moral and legal obligations under the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners.

In her new book, "The Dark Side," Mayer drew particular attention to a group of FBI agents who refused to participate in the torture of al-Qaida operatives in U.S. custody. It's a safe bet that few of them are ACLU members, but most have now "retired and joined private security firms, taking vast amounts of wisdom about Islamic terrorism with them."

An accurate record of this low, dishonest epoch in our history should also reflect the particular courage of the military lawyers—many of them from the Navy and Marine Corps—who sacrificed their careers demanding that their clients at Guantanamo receive a modicum of due process.

The article in the New York Review of Books also cites the example of a military prosecutor, Lt. Col. Stuart Crouch, who enlisted in the Marines as a military lawyer because a close friend was the co-pilot on the second hijacked airliner that flew into the World Trade Center on 9/11. Crouch was assigned to prosecute Mohamedou Ould Slahi, an al-Qaida operative alleged to have aided the Hamburg cell that planned and carried out the attack on the twin towers. But when Crouch discovered that he was expected to put on a case based on information obtained through torture, he refused as a matter of conscience.

Others have been less scrupulous for reasons that do them even less credit than ideological fanaticism. Take, for example, former Pentagon general counsel William J. Haynes II. In a sworn statement, Air Force Col. Morris Davis—the former top prosecutor in the Office of Military Commissions—says he resigned after being pressured by Haynes to move forward with politically "sexy" prosecutions even though Morris believed the evidence against the defendants had been obtained by torture. Davis said he also told Haynes that a few acquittals at Guantanamo, if warranted, would send a message that the commissions sitting there were fair, just as the not-guilty verdicts against some Nazi defendants had done for the Nuremberg trials.

See THE PUTSCH on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Leading by example

By DAVID A. PATERSON and MARTIN O'MALLEY
Special to The Washington Post

The Bush administration announced this week that the federal deficit could reach an unprecedented high, $482 billion, next year, even as all 50 states work to balance their budgets amid an economic recession and a national mortgage crisis.

Citizens in our states and across the country face skyrocketing costs for food, gas and energy. Sadly, these difficulties are compounded by wages that have remained stagnant, rising unemployment, a shell-shocked stock market and a federal government that has failed at almost every turn to invest in America's shared priorities and future.

The challenges to making ends meet are profound. That's why we have come to our nation's capital this week in our capacity as governors to call on the federal government to help all states navigate an economic crisis the likes of which we have not witnessed since the Great Depression.

New York is dealing with many of the issues other states face in terms of housing foreclosures, rising unemployment and devalued pensions. But the declines in the financial sector in particular have deep repercussions for jobs and tax revenue in New York state. Projections for this year indicate that capital gains will decline 24 percent and that financial services bonuses will decline 20 percent. Meanwhile, financial services firms will be laying off some 35,000 employees in the state. This is similar to what occurred in the industry after Sept. 11, 2001. But over the nine months after the terrorist attacks, the industry was able to turn a profit of $6.5 billion. Over the past nine months, the New York securities industry has reported cumulative losses of more than $40 billion. This has been devastating to the state's economy.

In Maryland, citizens and state leaders came together early to confront a record $1.7 billion structural deficit. In difficult economic times, an age-old dilemma arises: Do state leaders abandon their priorities, or do they make the tough decisions necessary to restore fiscal responsibility and advance the common good? Maryland has chosen to make choices—sometimes very hard decisions—based on shared values.

States are doing their part to build budgets that reflect revenue while making critical investments.

In New York and Maryland, we have made targeted investments in clean, renewable energy. We have stepped up where the federal government has fallen down to make critical investments in our infrastructure, including mass transit and roads. We are also supporting foreclosure prevention programs and investing in public education so our students continue to improve and excel, and increasing access to health care for those who remain uninsured.

Unlike the current administration in Washington, state governments are choosing to do more with less. In New York, state agencies were asked to slash their budgets by 3.35 percent in March; this has produced $500 million in savings so far. Just this week, agencies were asked to cut an additional 7 percent, to produce an additional $600 million in savings. Maryland has made $1.8 billion in cuts and spending reductions and eliminated more than 700 government jobs; it has also implemented StateStat, a system of performance measurement to improve government accountability and efficiency.

But no matter how prudent states are, they cannot solve the nation's economic problems on their own. The federal government must provide serious leadership and resources and be willing to make difficult short- and long-term decisions to move our country forward.

In the short term, federal officials must pass a second stimulus package that includes investments in our nation's infrastructure—projects that will help us modernize our deteriorating roads, bridges and tunnels while stimulating our economy through job creation. It is estimated that for every $1 billion invested in transportation projects, 42,000 jobs are created, and that every dollar spent on infrastructure projects generates about $5.70 in economic activity.

Other short-term stimulus investments should include an additional extension of unemployment insurance and assistance for low-income Americans—especially when it comes to helping families afford the energy it will take to stay warm this winter.

In the long term, our federal government should examine its fiscal track record from the past several years. We can no longer allow irresponsible spending, chronic underfunding of critical programs and a refusal to partner with state governments to determine the economic future of our country. It is time for fiscal responsibility.

David A. Paterson is governor of New York. Martin O'Malley is governor of Maryland. Both are Democrats.

A million little truths

By KERRY COHEN
Special to The Washington Post

Cohen is the author of Loose Girl.

In his new memoir, New York Times reporter David Carr describes soaking his arms, with their "pus-filled track marks," in a tub of detergent, as well as other low points in his life as a junkie. But those graphic details aren't the reasons why his addiction memoir makes me nervous. It's because of what he implies about the genre of memoir itself.

To write the book, Carr conducted interviews and extensively researched and fact-checked his own life, intentionally exposing how our memories are often fabrications. On his Web site, he writes that "sometimes the stories we tell about ourselves are just that: stories." The implicit suggestion: We must question whether those stories are in fact true.

Like Carr, I've written a memoir. That means that I've written a history of my memories, that I've taken a part of my life and put it down on paper for others to read — and perhaps judge. I thought I was ready for that. What I wasn't ready for, though, was the call earlier this year from my editor, asking me for digital files of my diplomas. "I'm not questioning the truth of your story," she said, "but others might."

"I know your degrees won't really prove anything, but since you have a masters in counseling psychology, it does show, in kind of a roundabout way, that you went through something that you tried to make sense of in your life." Then she laughed and said, "At least it proves that you are who you say you are." I sent the documents, along with a short note reassuring her that I hadn't been raised by wolves.

My memoir, "Loose Girl," was published this summer in the wake of several false memoirs. First there was James Frey, who notoriously manufactured a good deal of "A Million Little Pieces," in which he tells his tale of drugs, alcohol and criminality. Then came "Love and Consequences: A Memoir of Hope and Survival," the fabricated foster-child-and-gang-member book by Margaret B. Jones. Jones, as was soon revealed, was actually Margaret Seltzer, who grew up in a privileged household with her biological parents. Add to the sullied shelf the made-up Misha Defonseca, who claimed in "Misha: A Memoire of the Holocaust Years" that the Nazis had taken her parents and that she had grown up, quite literally, with a family of wolves.

The publishing industry reeled from these betrayals. Books were recalled, and memoirists like myself were suddenly put in the awkward, often impossible position of having to prove that our stories are factual. In light of this roll call of impostors, Carr's shoe-leather approach seems inevitable: Memoir 2.0.

People don't want to get fooled again, and who can blame them? Reading is an act of trust, and the relationship between reader and writer is intimate. Memoirists urge us to believe in them, and when we do, we open ourselves up to them, as they have supposedly opened themselves up to us. We make ourselves vulnerable, exposed.

Frey, perhaps having learned his lesson, marketed his latest book as fiction. Carr seems to be marketing his book, in part, as journalism. I'm hyper-aware of these choices — not only as a memoir writer but as a novelist. Before I wrote "Loose Girl," I wrote a young-adult novel called "Easy." It's not autobiographical but it has the same theme, a teenage girl's promiscuity. I wrote a fictional account first because the theme isn't generally one most people want to see explored, and I knew that a memoir might be attacked.

I thought publishing the novel would satisfy the part of me that needed to tell my story, but it didn't. Honesty mattered most. I knew that some people would judge me and others would doubt me, but I believed that if I told the true details of my story, other girls might feel freer to confess theirs.

My memoir begins when I'm 11 and goes on to the years when I engaged sexually with more than 40 boys, many of whose names I can't even remember. As I suspected, people took offense. Some claim 40 is a paltry number, as if the number — that fact — were anything but beside the point. I didn't write the book to parade my conquests or establish what has been called my "slut cred." I wrote it to examine the reasons I chose to harm myself — constantly needing the sex to mean more than it did, constantly letting it define me. I wrote the book because plenty of girls and women are still living this same story. I told the truth, drawing on the benefit of experience and the imperfection of memory, always aware of the difference between what could and could not be substantiated, always aware that I would need to protect the other players in my story — all those boys, the friends I betrayed, my unknowing parents.

Some readers are disappointed to see that I didn't become a person who no longer craves male attention, that I didn't transform myself into someone new. They see it as a flaw in the book, a plot device I should have employed. They can't fathom that I might be both the girl that I wrote about and the woman I am today. I wish I could prove to these readers that these facts coexist, that my story has an ending of sorts, in which I'm still me. Carr seems to wrestle with the same thing — which is why, I think, he offers different versions of his life, why he looks to others for verification. Was that (ital) really (end ital) me?

But how can we prove any of this? Must we all report our stories the way Carr did? I could put someone on the phone with my gynecologist, I suppose. I could try to track down some of those boys. Imagine that conversation: "Um, hi, John? Remember Jones Beach back in July 1987? It was a Wednesday?" But at the time, I hid most of my behavior, so I'd be out of luck trying to get corroboration. I withheld the truth back then as something few girls would want to admit to. I kept it from family and friends alike. My memoir is the story I didn't tell when I was young. It's the real one, but I have no way to prove it.

And while I'm busy proving what's right and wrong, other readers might ask: What is there to prove anyway? Plenty of girls have been with lots more boys than I have. People want to know what makes my number, fact-checked or not, more slutty — more true — than theirs, as if being a "loose girl" can be proved mathematically, as if truth were a numbers game.

But if truth isn't a question of fact, what is it? I could talk about the emotional truth of my memoir — how I wanted attention at that time in my young life, how I wanted desperately to matter — but that phrase "emotional truth" has been so badly overused as to be almost a stand-in for a lie. The real truth of my story, of many girls' stories, is so covered, so hidden, that it can be difficult to unearth. Some statistics tell a certain kind of story: about girls and sex, facts about sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies and about how many girls lose their virginity before age 14. But the real truth, the truths that lie beneath those facts, can't really be proved.

Reporting the facts of one's life — especially the darkest chapters, the way Carr did — is an interesting exercise. But sometimes we have to stick closer to our memories than to someone else's recounting. The truth of my story isn't particularly special; most women share the desire for male attention, even if they don't act on it in the way I did. It's the story of a girl who felt so bad about herself that she slept with anyone who seemed to like her. It's a truth that remains misunderstood, no matter how many times it gets told.

THE PUTSCH

From Page 6

Haynes' response was emphatic, according to Morris: "We can't have acquittals! We've got to have convictions! . . . If we've been holding these guys for so long, how can we explain letting them get off?"

At some point, the American people will demand a precise accounting of how and why their government and its officials behaved in this reckless, appalling fashion. That will require following the chain of command into the White House. When it happens, you can bet that Cheney, Rumsfeld, Addington et al., will demand every protection of the law and insist on every comma of the due process they've derided as mere inconvenience.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

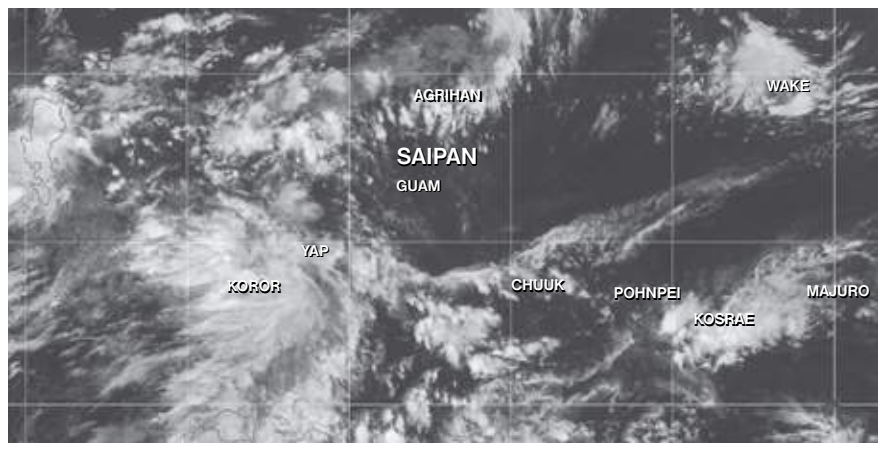
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼51
Beijing	Hot	▲96	▼71
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
London	Rain	▲73	▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼39
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲83	▼69
Osaka	Cloudy	▲92	▼75
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Pusan	Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲90	▼65
Salem	Cloudy	▲77	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼73
Tokyo	Showers	▲90	▼79
Washington, DC	Thundeshowers	▲88	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 11:45AM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from a weak circulation near the Philippines at 13N126E eastward toward an area between Yap and Koror Near 10N138E and then southward toward the equator. A large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extends from 11N to the equator and between 130E and 141E. A weaker area of trade-wind convergence extends further east from this with scattered showers 50 miles on either side of a line from 11N141E to 3N151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Pohnpei from the region around Kosrae northeastward toward Kwajalein in the Marshalls primarily between 2N and 6N from 160E to 168E. The surface analysis indicates trade-wind convergence and weak troughing in this area. Further to the east trade-wind convergence is the primary cause of the shower and thunderstorm activity from 5N to 8N and east of 175E. This area lies southeast of Majuro. North of the Marianas a surface through exists along 22N from 130E to 145E and then to the northeast past 25N149E. Upper-level divergence just to the south of this trough axis is helping to create a large area of scattered showers and pockets of thunderstorms bounded by the trough axis on the north side and from 15N130E to 17N147E in the northern CNMI to 18N150E and then north to 25N151E on the south side. An upper-level low and tutt centered near 23N170E is helping to produce two small areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island between 18N and 23N from 161E to 168 and also from 20N to 25N between 174E and 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:09AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:08AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:31PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:24PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Monday	6:00AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	6:00AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:01AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:29AM	7:28PM
Sunday	7:27AM	8:09PM
Monday	8:21AM	8:48PM
Tuesday	9:13AM	9:25PM
Wednesday	10:03AM	10:01PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 02, 1999

Federal takeover hearing postponed
It was the extra expense in traveling to Washington which the business sector wanted to avoid but it happened just the same when the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee postponed at the last minute the scheduled Aug. 3 CNMI oversight hearing. Instead, the Senate hearing will be held in the same week that the House Resources Committee, chaired by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), will conduct its investigation scheduled for Sept. 16, sources from the administration said yesterday.

June tourist arrivals drop
Visitor arrivals slid two percent for the month of June as it totaled 38,855 compared to the same month of 1998. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals from Japan dropped five percent mainly due to the reduction in airline seat capacity to the CNMI.

Teno nixes hazard pay for gov't workers
Saying the government does not have enough resources to pay additional benefits to its employees, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has junked a legislation that would make hazard pay mandatory for personnel exposed to occupational safety and health risks. The measure offered by House Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao was vetoed due to several concerns which were not addressed by legislators despite having a similar legislation put forward to the Office of the Governor in the past.

August 02, 2000

Revamp CUC—Guerrero
Chronic problems are plaguing the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, affecting water and power distribution and even customer services to the community, according to Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero. He called for support from lawmakers and administration officials to help the government-owned utility firm hurdle what he described as challenges facing the CUC board.

CNMI eyes less restrictions on FSM food exports
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Jack Tenorio has assured the Federated States of Micronesia government the CNMI will immediately look into easing its Quarantine restriction order on food items exported out of FSM states unaffected by the recent vibrio cholera outbreak. FSM officials, during a formal dialogue between CNMI and Guam public health and environment officials last week, has disclosed that its own quarantine division has taken extra steps to beef up inspection to contain the spread of bacteria in the state of Pohnpei.

CPA won't take over marina
The Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday stood pat on its earlier decision not to take over the operations of the financially-troubled Outer Cove Marina since the ports authority is still struggling to generate revenue to pay for its $33 million seaport revenue bond. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has asked CPA to study the offer made by the Marine Revitalization Corp. for the government to take over the operation of the Outer Cove Marina. MRC, a non-profit corporation operating the marina, is bleeding some $24,000 a month in interest payment alone for its huge debt.

August 02, 2001

Students with unpaid accounts can't enroll
The Northern Marianas College is hoping to recover some $2 million in student collectibles, warning that those with outstanding dues will not be allowed to register in the coming semester. With the Fall 2001 registration period to commence next week, college officials are urging students with unpaid tuition and fees to settle their accounts before signing up for courses.

Research on rising college costs
While college students and their families may get a sinking feeling with every report of rising college costs, research is underway that aims at least to show students and families what colleges do with all that money. The National Association of College and University Business Officers is doing a school survey to devise a formula for calculating the cost of educating undergraduates, from faculty salaries to heating classrooms.

Business

Oil falls to almost $124

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices pulled back Thursday, wiping out some gains from the previous day's $4 a barrel rally, as traders bet that a cooling U.S. economy will continue to eat into U.S. demand for fuel.

At the pump, easing prices underscored Americans' waning consumption of gasoline. The average price of a gallon of regular slipped 1.7 cents to $3.909, according auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell $2.69 to settle at $124.08 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a day after the contract soared more than $4 in the biggest one-day jump in two weeks. Prices have now fallen in four of the last seven sessions and are 14 percent off their all-time trading high above $147, reached July 11.

The Commerce Department said U.S. gross domestic product rose just 1.9 percent in the second quarter despite government tax rebates aimed at jolting the economy. Economists had expected growth of 2.4 percent. The weak 1 percent GDP figure of the first three months of 2008 also was modified lower to 0.9 percent.

Exxon Mobil turns biggest profit

HOUSTON (AP)—Exxon Mobil reported the fattest operating profit in U.S. corporate history Thursday but took a beating anyway—from politicians railing against Big Oil, drivers bleeding cash at the pump and investors who expected more.

The world's largest publicly traded oil company turned a profit of $11.7 billion for the second quarter, lifted mostly by meteoric crude prices. Its earnings were up 14 percent from a year ago.

Total sales: $138 billion—roughly the gross domestic product of Hungary.

Henry Hubble, Exxon Mobil's vice president for investor relations, said the record profits "highlight the quality of our integrated business model and disciplined investment approach."

For the most part, the plaudits ended there.

Despite their heft, Exxon's profits were a disappointment on Wall Street, and the company's stock slumped nearly 5 percent. Almost the entire energy industry was walloped by investors Thursday.

European rival Royal Dutch Shell posted its own record profit across the Atlantic, with earnings of $11.6 billion. Its American depository receipts tumbled nearly 4 percent in afternoon trading.

Rebates helped economy a little in second quarter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The prospects for a quick economic recovery dimmed Thursday, with new data showing the economy grew at a slower-than-expected rate this spring despite some oomph from tax rebate checks—and actually shrank late last year.

Democrats called for a second economic stimulus package, while the Bush administration said the growth was proof the checks helped.

Armed with government stimulus checks of up to $600 per person, Americans boosted spending on food, clothing and other items in the second quarter, the Commerce Department reported.

But the gross domestic product still increased at a 1.9 percent annual rate, up from 0.9 percent in the first quarter but less than the 2.4 percent economists were looking for.

Government revisions showed the economy actually shrank at the end of last year at a 0.2 percent annual rate. It was the first quarterly dip for the GDP since the 2001 recession.

Wall Street slides on GDP, jobless data

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street sank Thursday, after weak readings on economic growth and the job market touched off renewed concerns about the financial health of businesses and consumers. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 200 points.

The Commerce Department's report that gross domestic product grew at a 1.9 percent pace in the second quarter disappointed investors. Economists polled by Thomson Financial/IFR had expected growth of 2.4 percent in the broad measure of the economy's health.

Investors were also concerned about Labor Department data saying that the number of people seeking jobless benefits jumped to the highest level in five years. Economists warned the weekly figures can be volatile, however, and some dismissed them as an aberration.

A $4.5 billion cash offer from Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. for its cancer drug partner ImClone Systems Inc. kept the Nasdaq composite index from falling as sharply as other indexes. In other positive news, oil prices declined, and an index of Midwestern business activity indicated growth.

Nation

States face tough choices as budget crisis deepens

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is laying off as many as 22,000 state employees. New York's governor is raising the possibility of selling —or more accurately, leasing —the Brooklyn Bridge. Nevada is burning through its rainy-day fund like a gambler on a losing streak. And Maryland is pinning its hopes on slot machines.

With the economy in a slide and the housing market in crisis, states are collectively rolling up tens of billions of dollars in budget deficits in one of the worst financial crunches in the U.S. since the 1970s.

The startlingly rapid drop-off in tax revenue is forcing many states to make some hard decisions: Raise taxes? Cut programs and jobs? Dip into reserves? Borrow money? Lease or sell state assets?

"They're all terrible choices," Nevada Assembly Speaker Barbara Buckley said of the cuts her state made in a special session last month. "I believe we should never have to make these kinds of choices ever again."

Worse, economists say the red ink is only going to get deeper later in the fiscal year when 2008 tax returns start coming in. "The big question is when will states hit the bottom? We don't know," said Arturo Perez, a fiscal analyst with the National Conference of State Legislatures in Colorado.

As of June, more than 30 states faced deficits totaling a projected $40 billion, or more than triple the gap of the previous year, according to the NCSL.

California, which still does not have a budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, is looking at a $15.2 billion deficit, an amount that dwarfs that of all other states. The next highest at the start of the fiscal year was New York's, at $5.2 billion.

California lawmakers are at odds over how to deal with the problem. The Democrats are proposing a combination of spending cuts and $8.2 billion in higher taxes. The Republicans oppose any new taxes but haven't come up with the spending cuts to close the gap.

In addition to eliminating up to 22,000 part-time and temporary jobs Thursday, Schwarzenegger imposed a hiring freeze and ordered that as many as 200,000 state workers receive the federal minimum wage of $6.55 an hour until a budget is passed - a move that is certain to be challenged in court, even though the employees will get their back pay eventually.

AP

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sets down the pen after signing an executive order eliminating 22,000 part-time and temporary positions and ordered that 200,000 state workers receive the federal minimum wage during a news conference at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Small jet crashes in Minnesota; 8 killed

OWATONNA, Minn. (AP)—A small jet crashed Thursday while preparing to land at a regional airport in Minnesota, killing eight people, including casino and construction executives.

Authorities initially thought nine people may have been aboard the Raytheon Hawker 800, which went down about 9:30 a.m. about 60 miles south of the Twin Cities.

But by late evening, Department of Public Safety spokesman Doug Neville said it had been confirmed that eight people were on board.

The plane was carrying two pilots. Seven people were dead at the scene. One died later at a hospital.

Severe weather had been moving through southern Minnesota earlier Thursday, but witnesses and the National Weather Service said the storms were subsiding at the time of the crash.

The charter jet, flying from Atlantic City, N.J., to Owatonna, a town of 25,000, went down in a cornfield northwest of Degner Regional Airport, Sheriff Gary Ringhofer said. The wreckage was not visible to reporters because tall corn obscured the crash site.

The debris was scattered 500 feet beyond the airport's runway. Late Thursday, the Dakota County coroner was on the scene working to identify victims.

A National Transportation Safety Board investigating team will look at a variety of factors, such as the plane structure and weather, said John Lovell, the investigator in charge.

A cockpit voice recorder and a flight management system were recovered and sent to be analyzed, the NTSB said.

Cameron Smith, a mechanic at the airport, said he spoke by radio with the jet's pilot just minutes before the crash. The pilot was about to land and was asking where he should park for fuel, Smith said.

He ran to the crash scene to see if anyone could be helped, but saw only a long skid path and debris that he described as "shredded."

AP

Investigators examine the scene of a fatal airplane crash near Owatonna, Minn., Thursday, July 31, 2008.

9 charged in death of disabled Philly teen

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Four social workers were among nine people charged Thursday in the death of a disabled 14-year-old girl who authorities say wasted away from neglect before dying at 42 pounds.

Danieal Kelly's mother was charged with murder; counts against other defendants range from involuntary manslaughter to perjury. District Attorney Lynne Abraham said any of the nine could have foreseen the horrific fate of Danieal, whose emaciated body was found in her mother's squalid house covered with bone-deep, maggot-infested bedsores in August 2006.

Abraham had scathing words for the city's Department of Human Services, calling its handling of the case "callous, indifferent, unconscionable"—and all too familiar.

"Danieal did not fall through the cracks," she said. "It was a failure of institutional inclination. Saving Danieal was just too much trouble."

Two of the social workers are city employees; two others worked for a company hired by DHS. Department Commissioner Anne Marie Ambrose scheduled an afternoon news conference to discuss the case.

Warrants were issued for all nine defendants Thursday. Andrea Kelly, the mother of Danieal (pronounced "Danielle"), was charged with murder, and father Daniel Kelly, who did not live with the family, was charged with child endangerment.

A 258-page grand jury report recommending the charges said not only that Andrea Kelly refused to get her daughter food, water and medical treatment, but that she repeatedly prevented one of her other children from calling an ambulance "for his obviously dying sister."

A listing for Andrea Kelly's attorney, Vincent Giusini, rang unanswered Thursday. It was not immediately clear if Daniel Kelly, 37, of Darby, had an attorney; two phone numbers listed in his name were disconnected.

Two employees of MultiEthnic Behavioral Health, a now-defunct company that DHS hired to provide social services to Danieal, falsified documents to cover up the fact they rarely, if ever, checked on her, the grand jury said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Louisiana boy's arm bitten off by alligator

SLIDELL, La. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies say an alligator has bitten off an 11-year-old boy's arm in Louisiana. Deputies say Devin Funck was playing in a neighborhood pond in a subdivision about 20 miles northeast of New Orleans when the alligator pulled him under. The alligator was described as between 10 and 12 feet long. Relatives tell The Times-Picayune he managed to free himself. He was airlifted to a hospital, where his condition was not available. Wildlife officials say they shot the alligator and recovered the boy's arm largely intact from its belly. The arm was taken to the hospital, but relatives say they're not sure whether it can be successfully reattached. Last month, a teen lost his arm when an alligator attacked him in a Florida canal.

La. residents near levee lose fight to keep trees

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Carol Byram sees paradise every time she gazes at the dogwood, hackberry and cherry laurel trees in the backyard of her New Orleans home. The federal government sees the seeds of another disaster for a city still recovering from Hurricane Katrina. A federal judge sided with the government Thursday, denying a bid by Byram and several other homeowners to block the Army Corps of Engineers from removing trees and fences from their properties. Byram's home abuts the 17th Street Canal, where a levee breach after Katrina flooded her neighborhood nearly three years ago. The corps says removing hundreds of trees from the city's levees will make them stronger.

Bond denied for Ala. man in body-in-freezer case

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—A judge denied bond Thursday for a part-time evangelist charged with murder in the death of his wife, a mother of eight whose body was kept in a freezer for at least three years. Arletha Hopkins, 36, apparently was killed in 2004, but the cause of death remains under investigation, Assistant District Attorney Ashley Rich said. Anthony Hopkins, 37, was returned to jail after a brief court appearance. The father of the six youngest children, Hopkins also is charged with rape, sodomy, sexual abuse and incest in a related case involving a female relative who is pregnant with his baby, authorities said. Her disclosure of that sexual abuse led police to find the body in the freezer Monday. Investigators believe the wife was killed when she discovered the sexual abuse.

Massachusetts lets out-of-state gay couples marry

BOSTON (AP)—Joy Spring and Carla Barbano spent the day before their wedding the way many brides do: relaxing and primping at a spa. But unlike most, their wedding day had to wait until Gov. Deval Patrick signed a bill Thursday that repealed a 1913 law that had blocked gay couples from outside Massachusetts from marrying here. "We're being recognized as a married couple," said Spring, of Middletown, N.Y., who planned to wed Barbano, her partner of seven years, at a ceremony Friday in Provincetown. Supporters of the repeal of the law, which banned couples from marrying in Massachusetts unless their unions would be legal in their home states, say lifting the ban was not only fair but will have economic benefits.

Asia

Mortar kills family of 7 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A mortar shell hit a house in a valley where Pakistani security forces are battling Islamic militants, killing a family of seven, and militants torched a nearby girls school, police said Thursday.

Government officials struck a peace deal with militants in the northern Swat valley in May, hoping to curb the growing influence of militant groups through negotiations.

But U.S. and NATO officials complain that cease-fires and talks across Pakistan's wild border zone have allowed Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents based there to focus on attacks in neighboring Afghanistan.

Trouble flared in Swat on Tuesday when militants abducted 25 members of the security forces. Since then, fighting has reportedly killed 27 rebels and seven troops and raised doubts about the new government's ability to combat militancy.

The provincial government described the situation in the Swat valley as "grave" and said it had requested more army troops to help bring peace, law and order.

The shell hit overnight in the village of Deolai, said Shakoor Khan, a police official in the nearby town of Kabbal. A man called Mohammed Tahir died along with his wife and five children, Khan told The Associated Press by telephone.

It was unclear who fired the mortar round.

Khan also said that militants burned a girls school in the Khwazkhela area, the latest in a string of similar attacks blamed on Islamic fundamentalists opposed to female education.

The army reported sporadic overnight gunfire in the valley. It didn't confirm Pakistani media reports of renewed fighting Thursday. A valley-wide curfew was relaxed for two hours before noon to allow residents to buy provisions.

The valley lies just 90 miles from the capital, Islamabad and is a vital test of the government's resolve to prevent Taliban-style militancy from spreading into previously peaceful areas of the northwest.

S. Korea to end ban on revealing sex of babies

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's Constitutional Court overturned a ban on doctors telling parents the gender of unborn babies, saying Thursday the country has grown out of a preference for sons and that the restriction violates parents' right to know.

South Korea introduced the ban in 1987 to try to prevent abortions of female fetuses in a country that had traditionally favored sons in the widespread Confucian belief that males carry on family lines. Abortion has also been illegal but practiced widely.

On Thursday, the Constitutional Court said it was too restrictive to ban doctors from telling parents the gender of the unborn for the entire pregnancy because there was little chance of aborting fetuses older than six months due to risks for mothers.

"The legislation's purpose is recognized in that it helps resolve the sex-ratio imbalance and protects the fetuses' right to life," the court said in the ruling. "But it overly limits the basic rights of parents and physicians by placing a blanket ban through the latter half of pregnancy."

It also said the preference for sons has lessened to a point where the ratio of newly born boys and girls in the country has almost reached the natural level of 100 girls to 106 boys.

"Considering this, we cannot but question whether the sex-ratio imbalance is a serious social problem and whether the fetus gender notification is serving as a cause for abortion," it said.

The court ordered the law be revised to reflect the ruling by the end of next year, and said the current ban will stand until the revision. Rulings by the Constitutional Court cannot be appealed.

Judge Kim Bok-ki, who serves as the court's spokesman, said the ruling means the law should allow doctors to let parents know their babies' gender in the latter half of pregnancies.

ASIAN BRIEFS

President Bush: US not neglecting Asia

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—President Bush on Thursday countered critics who claim his global war on terror has lessened Washington's role in Asia and allowed China's influence to grow in the region. Preparing to embark on a three-country Asian trip, Bush said in interviews with senior Asian editors in Washington that "our foreign policy has been robust in the Far East." His remarks were carried in Bangkok newspapers Friday. Bush is to visit Thailand, South Korea and China Aug. 5-11, a tour that will include attendance at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Another theme of his trip will be human rights: He plans to meet with activists opposed to Myanmar's ruling junta while in Bangkok and raise human rights issues when he meets President Hu Jintao in China.

Japan Cabinet reshuffle expected in days ahead

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister said Thursday he will decide about a Cabinet reshuffle at a meeting with the head of his coalition partner, fueling expectation that new ministers will be named as soon as Friday. The addition of fresh faces in his Cabinet is widely seen as an attempt by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda to jump-start his flagging public support, which polls show being hit by a series of scandals about missing pension records, arrests of defense officials and alleged bribery. His overall approval rating fell to about 20 percent in recent months, several polls found. "I will make the decision at the party leaders' meeting tomorrow," Fukuda told reporters on nationally televised Nippon TV news, when questioned about the Cabinet reshuffle.

Disgraced S. Korean scientist won't resume cell work

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea refused Friday to allow disgraced cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk to resume work on human stem cells, citing his "ethical problems" that scandalized the international scientific community with fake research. Hwang filed for a government license in December to resume research on cloning human embryos, two years after his falsified breakthroughs in stem cell research were debunked. Hwang had been the only South Korean scientist allowed to carry out such research. But the government stripped him of the license in 2006 after he was found to have falsely claimed breakthroughs in creating stem cells from cloned human embryos.

Olympic official: I didn't know about Web reversal

BEIJING (AP)—An Olympic official said Thursday he felt like the "fall guy" after promising reporters at the games they would have uncensored Internet access, only to find that the Chinese had blocked certain Web sites. Kevan Gosper, the press commission head of the International Olympic Committee, also said he suspects the IOC leadership probably knew about the change. Gosper said he was startled to find out earlier this week that Web sites for Amnesty International or others dealing with Tibet, the 1989 protests at Tiananmen Square or the spiritual group Falun Gong would be blocked to reporters at the Olympics Main Press Center in Beijing.

World

U.S. toll in Iraq hits all-time low as month ends

BAGHDAD (AP)—The monthly U.S. toll in Iraq fell to its lowest point since the war began, with 11 American deaths as July drew to a close Thursday after the departure of the last surge brigade.

Iraqis also are dying at dramatically lower numbers with the war in its sixth year. July saw the lowest civilian toll since December 2005, though a series of suicide bombings this week and rising ethnic tensions in northern Iraq reflect the fragility of the security successes.

An Associated Press tally shows at least 510 Iraqi civilians and security force members were killed in July, a 75 percent drop from the 2,021 deaths in the same period last year as the U.S. troop buildup aimed at quelling rampant Sunni-Shiite violence was nearing its peak.

The drastic decline in violence over the past year has led to increasing optimism among American commanders, who have been wary of declaring success after past lulls proved short-lived. It also has become a key issue in the U.S. presidential campaign.

"The progress is still reversible," President Bush said Thursday in Washington. But he said a new "degree of durability in gains" should permit him to announce further U.S. troop reductions later this year.

AP

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Haney from Hammer Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, escorts a suspected terrorist after he was detained in a raid in Nahr al-Imam, about 90 kilometers (60 miles) north of Baghdad in Iraq's volatile Diyala province on Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

Canada bus passenger beheads seat mate

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Manitoba (AP)—Passengers aboard a Canadian bus fled in horror as a fellow traveler viciously attacked his seat mate, repeatedly stabbing him and then severing his head, witnesses said. Police said a 40-year-old man was arrested after the grisly attack late Wednesday night aboard a Greyhound bus en route from Edmonton, Alberta, to Winnipeg, Manitoba. The suspect was captured as he tried to escape from the bus early Thursday about three hours after the violence, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Steve Colwell told reporters. Authorities declined to provide details beyond that the victim had been stabbed. They said a motive hadn't been determined and refused to identify the suspect or the victim.

But passenger Garnet Caton said the victim, who appeared to be about 19, was sleeping with headphones on when his seat mate suddenly began stabbing him as the bus traveled a desolate stretch of the TransCanada Highway, a dozen miles from Portage La Prairie.

Caton, sitting just one seat in front of the two men, said he heard no exchanges between them prior to the violence.

"We heard this bloodcurdling scream and turned around, and the guy was standing up, stabbing this guy repeatedly," Caton said from a hotel in Brandon, Manitoba, where he and other horrified passengers were taken.

WORLD BRIEFS

Dormitory collapse in Turkey kills 13

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A three-story girl's dormitory collapsed in central Turkey early Friday, killing 13 students and injuring at least 20, a local emergency services official said. An estimated six other students were still under the rubble. A large gas canister explosion is believed to have caused the collapse in the village of Balcilar in Central Konya province, said Mayor Mehmet Demirgul. Besides the fatalities, at least 20 students were brought out of the debris with injuries, said Galip Sef, an official with the local emergency services. Three of the students sustained severe burns, he said. Demirgul said an estimated six more students were waiting to be rescued.

Man accused of killing, dismembering girlfriend

GOIANIA, Brazil (AP)—Police on Thursday accused a Brazilian man of killing and dismembering his 17-year-old British girlfriend, taking pictures of her body parts with his cell phone and stuffing her torso in a suitcase. Officers found the suitcase with the torso of Cara Marie Burke at the edge of a river Monday in this central Brazilian city, Goias state police inspector Jorge Moreira da Silva said. Burke's boyfriend, Mohamed D'Ali Carvalho Santos, 20, was arrested and charged with homicide Thursday after "he confessed he cut her up and even photographed the body on his cellular phone," Silva said.

Karadzic skirmishes with UN war crimes court

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had his first skirmishes with the U.N. war crimes tribunal Thursday: He was cut short by the judge when he tried to protest his arrest, and put on notice that the prosecution will object to his demand to represent himself. During the initial session, Karadzic also claimed his seizure and trial violated a deal he made with the United States in 1996 that the case against him would be scrapped if he left politics and did not undermine the peace agreement that ended the Bosnian war. Karadzic appeared at a plea hearing one day after he was extradited from Serbia to answer genocide and war crimes charges for the murder of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats and for directing a reign of terror during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

RP lifts ban on sending workers to Jordan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine labor secretary lifted an eight-month ban on sending workers to Jordan on Friday after setting a minimum wage of US$400 in hopes of eliminating abuse and exploitation.

The ban in January was triggered by complaints of nonpayment of wages, mistreatment and rape that prompted hundreds of Filipinos, mostly maids, to flee their employers and seek refuge at a Philippine-run center in Amman.

Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito Roque said in a statement the government was lifting the ban after setting a minimum wage of US$400 for household workers "to ensure that only legitimate and capable employers can avail of their services ... and eventually eliminate abuse and exploitation."

Jordan's Labor Ministry said in January it was addressing worker problems with the Philippine Embassy but did not elaborate. It said about 16,000 Filipinos work in Jordan.

The government had earlier set the same minimum wage for maids in the United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries, but it caused a drop in demand for Filipino household help, officials said.

Remittances from overseas workers provide the backbone of Philippines' economy. Some 8 million Filipinos _ or nearly 10 percent of the population of about 90 million _ work overseas, sending back home about US$13 billion each year, or 10 percent of gross domestic product.

Citing security concerns, the Philippines also has prevented its workers from seeking new contracts for lucrative jobs in Nigeria, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan. About 6,000 Filipinos are believed to be working in U.S. military camps across Iraq.

REPAIR WORK AP

In this July 25, 2008 file photo released by the Media Affairs Division of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, luggage can be seen from the damaged right wing fuselage of Qantas Airways Boeing 747-400 passenger plane following an emergency landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines. Australian airline Qantas will preserve its track record of never losing a plane in an accident by repairing a gaping hole in the side of the jetliner caused by an exploding oxygen bottle, the airline said Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Electricity training for workers group

The Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group conducted a Practical Electricity Training at the Filipino Workers Resource Center for four consecutive Saturdays in July, from 6pm to 9pm. There were 29 OFW students who completed the training.

SBFCUG was founded on Dec. 8, 2006 by Marcelo "Mar" Masilungan, Building and Fixing Computers Course volunteer-instructor and White Coconut's computer technical support specialist. The group is composed of graduates of BFC, one of the courses being offered at the POLO-FWRC for OFWs.

During the monthlong training, SBFCUG studied practical electricity—Ohm's law, identified which circuit needed home run, sizes of cables needed, designed and installed complete electrical outlets (GFCI outlet for kitchen, 220 volts for dryer and complete house circuit, including those needed for home appliances) for a mock-up three-bedroom house.

The training was made possible through the mentorship of engineer Manny Cisnero, and Philippine-licensed master electricians Angel Deliva and Roland Vicencio. All three are active SBFCUG members who willingly and freely shared their knowledge and experience to enhance the skills of other group members.

According to SBFCUG chair Amado Tumbaga, other trainings lined up for this year include AutoCad and Web/Graphics Design, plus a review for Computer Service Technician License Certification for BFC graduates. At present, the group has 13 Computer Service Technicians who are certified by the Electronics Technicians Association International.

Masilungan and the SBFCUG officers and members are grateful to the Philippine Consulate General, particularly its Philippine Overseas Labor Office, for its unceasing support to the group's initiatives. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group pose for a picture after ending a Practical Electricity Training at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

Filipinos among 55 nabbed at suspected gay party in Saudi

RIYADH—Saudi police have arrested 55 people, mostly Filipinos and Pakistanis, for allegedly holding a gay party at a farm near Qatif in eastern Saudi Arabia.

David Dicang, the Philippine labor attaché in charge of the Eastern Province, said, "I know that some Filipinos have been arrested in that area and we are trying to help them."

He said he could not comment on the nature of the case. "I can't confirm or deny reports that are circulating in the media," said Dicang. "I am working with the police to help the detained Filipino workers."

A local TV report said two young men were allegedly found wearing women's makeup and dancing on stage in what has been described as a gay party.

The report said the partygoers were handcuffed when arrested.

Police said drugs and alcohol were found at the farm and that many of those arrested were Filipinos and Pakistanis.

Waqar Ahmed, community welfare attaché at the Pakistan Embassy, said, "I have no knowledge about any arrest so far. Our workers are normally not involved in such kinds of activities."

"There is a possibility that some Pakistanis may be working or serving food in the party and then got arrested," he said.

Ahmed said a small number of poor Pakistanis work in Qatif region. ***(Arab News)***

Coalition for ethnic minorities holds meeting

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities is inviting all concerned ethnic minorities to a membership meeting today, Aug. 2, 2008, at 5pm at the Alanar Compound, Chalan Piao, Saipan across Hopwood Junior High School.

Agenda for the meeting include the all-out registration campaign for new voters; re-registration of voters who failed to vote during the mid-term elections; upcoming meeting with the candidates for Washington delegate; the plight of the CNMI permanent residents, long time residing guest workers with or without U.S. citizen children, Trust Territory period-born children, Immediate Relatives married to locals; upcoming get together picnic and other topics of interest.

The weekly meeting is conducted through an open forum style where everyone has the privilege to speak their mind and in their native tongue if they cannot express it in English. A consensus is voted and adapted as a rule for majority decision on any topic that is raised for discussion.

So far, CREAM has a registered membership of over 300 individuals composed of registered voters, new voters, parents and long-time resident guest workers. Membership interest is spreading and continuing. ***(PR)***

Free English class

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office announces the opening of its free Basic English Development Class for college-level OFWs on Aug. 9, 2008 (every Saturday) from 2pm to 5pm.

Admission of 30 students is on first-come, first serve basis. Register now! Previous applicants are requested to call 235-6992 for confirmation. ***(PR)***

? LABOR FRONT

Transferring to a new employer

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: How can an alien worker transfer to a new employer?

A: A transfer to a new employer may be made only by an administrative order issued by a Labor hearing officer. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, an alien worker, however, may not transfer to an employer who is included in Labor's Barred List.

■■■

Q: What will happen if a guest worker's application to transfer to a new employer has correctable deficiencies?

A: An application from an approved employment contract in the case of a transfer must be submitted within the time allowed by Labor's administrative order. The Regulations state that if an application for an approved employment contract is filed and has correctable deficiencies, an automatic extension of 10 days from the end of the time allowed by administrative order is afforded to file a proper application.

■■■

Q: Who is responsible for checking with Labor that no deficiencies are found in the transfer application?

A: The employer and the guest worker are responsible for staying in contact with Labor and ensuring that no deficiencies remain at the end of the automatic extension. The Regulations provide that no further extensions will be granted and the transfer will be automatically denied if deficiencies remain.

Denial of a transfer, however, may be appealed to the Labor administrative hearing office within 15 days after the date of the denial.

If a transfer is completed, the new employer will assume all legal responsibilities for the transferred worker. The responsibilities include the costs of repatriation as of the date of approval of the employment contract.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan

Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

Female governor leads '08 Magsaysay awardees

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A female Philippine provincial governor who dislodged a local political clan and a medical couple from India who built a hospital and a school for a remote tribe are among the winners of the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Awards, organizers announced Thursday.

The award, named for a popular Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957, is considered the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said Gov. Grace Padaca, 44, won the award for government service for empowering voters in her northern province of Isabela to "reclaim their democratic right to elect leaders of their own choosing."

Prakash and Mandakini Amte, a husband and wife team of doctors, were cited for community leadership for enhancing the ability of the Madia Gonds tribe in eastern Maharashtra state to adapt to modern society through their healing and teaching work.

Padaca, struck by polio as a child, worked as an accountant for a radio station, Bombo Radyo, in Cauayan township but soon became a popular radio commentator tackling corruption, illegal gambling, logging and her province's stagnating economy and ravaged environment.

She lost her bid for a congressional seat against a candidate from the politically entrenched Dy family in 2001, but won against another member of the clan as governor in 2004 and again in 2007.

The Amtes abandoned their urban practices in 1974 when Prakash's father, renowned Gandhian humanitarian Baba Amte, called him to take over a new project among the Madia Gonds, who lived on hunting, gathering and shifting cultivation.

The couple moved to the remote Hemalkasa region and lived simply among the tribesmen, learned their language and patiently gained their trust.

The Amtes' 50-bed hospital and five doctors treat 40,000 patients a year for free. Their school introduced the tribe to settled agriculture—growing vegetables, fruits and irrigated grains organically—and encouraged conservation and protection of forests and wild animals.

AP
In this photo dated Aug. 10, 2005, doctor couple Prakash Amte, left, and Mandakini Amte look on outside their residence at Hemalkasa, about 975 kilometers (609 miles) northeast of Mumbai, India.

This year's other awardees include the Philippines' Center for Agriculture and Rural Development and Therdachai Jivacate of Thailand, who shared the award for public service.

Therdachai, 68, was cited for his work to provide artificial limbs for poor amputees through mobile workshops, including several in Malaysia, Laos and Myanmar, where victims lose their legs to land mines, diabetes and snake bites.

The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development was recognized for successfully adapting microfinance modeled after Bangladesh's Grameen Bank to the Philippines to provide financial services to half a million poor women.

Akio Ishii, 67, head of the Akashi Shoten publishing house in Japan, won the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts for publication of works that focus on discrimination, human rights and other "difficult subjects" in Japanese society, the award body said.

The award for peace and international understanding went to Indonesia's Ahmad Syafii Maarif, a 73-year-old Muslim intellectual recognized for guiding fellow Muslims to embrace tolerance and pluralism as the basis for justice and harmony.

'Sabio wanted P50M bribe'

By LEILA SALAVERRIA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The "emissary" of Manila Electric Co. who purportedly offered P10 million to Court of Appeals Justice Jose Sabio Jr. came forward Thursday with his own story.

In a four-page sworn statement, a copy of which was given to the Philippine Daily Inquirer by a source affiliated with Meralco, Francis Roa de Borja quoted Sabio as saying that the government had offered the latter money and a seat in the Supreme Court to rule in favor of the Government Service Insurance System in the case filed against it by Meralco.

De Borja also claimed that Sabio—who had said that a Meralco emissary offered him P10 million to inhibit himself from the case—mentioned P50 million as his price in rejecting the government's promised rewards.

De Borja narrated his July 1 meeting with Sabio in Makati City, where the justice purportedly disclosed the government's offer.

Said De Borja: "I had been appalled from the beginning by the way the GSIS and the government were going after Meralco. I told Justice Sabio that it was obvious that the government was doing this in retaliation for the news coverage by ABS-CBN of the administration. I then asked him, 'What would it take for you to resist the government's offer?' The response of Justice Sabio was 'Fifty Million.'"

De Borja said he was acting on his own when he first decided to phone Sabio to discuss the Meralco vs GSIS case.

But his affidavit contained no categorical denial that he had offered P10 million for Sabio to inhibit himself from the case and pave the way for Justice Bienvenido Reyes to chair the division that would rule on the case.

Asked to comment, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia pronounced as "ridiculous" De Borja's claim that it was the government who had attempted to bribe Sabio.

Dogs rescued in raid using tougher new law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Investigators and animal welfare activists have rescued 18 dogs from the butcher's knife in the northern Philippines, using a new law against the illegal meat trade, an official said Thursday.

Two suspected dog meat traders were arrested in Monday's raid in Nueva Ecija province and charged under a new Anti-Rabies Law which provides tougher penalties for killing dogs for human consumption, said Serafin Gil, a National Bureau of Investigation agent who led the operation.

If convicted the traders face up to four years in jail plus a fine of 5,000 pesos (US$113) per dog traded. Under a previous law, traders faced milder sentencing.

Killing dogs for the meat trade is illegal. However, the law is vague about eating dog meat, considered a delicacy in some parts of the Philippines, particularly in Baguio in the mountainous Cordillera region, where back-street restaurants serve the meat despite the ban on killing dogs and protests from animal rights advocates.

Animal rights groups have welcomed the new law that also requires registration of dogs and anti-rabies vaccination.

In Monday's sting, Gil said activists from the Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc., a local affiliate of the British-based International Wildlife Coalition Trust, posed as dog meat buyers when government agents swooped down on the two suspects.

Jacinto Jalova, 60, and son-in-law Renato Quijano, 40, were nabbed as they were receiving money from the activists. Also present was a team from a local television investigative program posing as buyers, Gil said.

The dogs' rescue followed another raid in northern Baguio city's public market on Sunday, when authorities seized 570 pounds (258 kilograms) of butchered dog meat and arrested six suspected traders.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

5 hacked to death in Quezon town

LUCENA CITY—At least five persons, including a four-month-old baby girl, were all hacked to death in Barangay (village) Malusak in Atimonan, Quezon late Thursday evening, police said Friday.

Senior Superintendent Fidel Posadas, Quezon police chief, identified the victims as Elizabeth dela Torre, 27, and her children Eliza, 3; Arvin, 5; Aizly, 4 months old; and Rose Marie San Juan, 12, niece of Elizabeth, all residents of Malusak.

Posadas said at around 10 p.m., the victims were walking home from the town fiesta carnival when the suspect, Mario Banal, blocked their way and without provocation hacked them all to death with a bolo (machete).

Police arrested the suspect in follow-up operations.

Posadas said the suspect, a neighbor of the victims, was "mentally deranged."

"He doesn't want to talk. It's hard to investigate," Posadas said in a phone interview. ***(PDI)***

Rebel killed as troops overrun NPA camp

LUCENA CITY—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed in a 30-minute firefight with Army soldiers in Mauban, Quezon, Thursday, according to initial reports reaching the Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here Friday.

Captain Lea Santiago, public information officer in Camp Nakar, said the Army troopers were conducting combat operations in Sitio (sub-village) Katmuna, Barangay (village) Cagsiay 2 in Mauban when they chanced upon around 30 heavily armed rebels in their encampment at 7:30 a.m.

"The troops were able to overrun and clear the encampment, including retrieve an anti-personnel landmine," she added. ***(PDI)***

Ex-ARMM gov faces graft raps

MANILA, Philippines—The former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and three other officials were haled to the Sandiganbayan over an anomalous purchase of medical emergency kits worth P16.5 million in 2003.

The Office of the Ombudsman-Mindanao on Thursday lodged graft charges before the anti-graft court against former ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, disbursing officer Serda Hassan, acting accountant Ricardo Luna and ARMM-Manila Liaison office head Socorro Natividad.

Government prosecutors set their bail bonds at P40,000 each.

The former officials were accused of taking advantage of their positions and conspiring with one another in purchasing 60 pieces of medical kits worth P275,000 each from Makati-based Geneve S.A. Philippines Inc. without public bidding and proper documents.

Based on a Commission on Audit Report, the officials allegedly engaged in business with the medical supplier even if no funds have been appropriated in the ARMM for the purchase of the said kits worth P16.5 million. ***(PDI)***

Suspects in fatal stabbing of 3 Koreans are arrested

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three men have been arrested for allegedly breaking into a house west of Manila and stabbing to death a South Korean woman, her daughter and 10-year-old granddaughter, Philippine police said Thursday.

Chief Superintendent Raul L. Castaneda said the suspects, who face multiple unrelated criminal cases before local courts, were arrested separately in western Zambales province and will be charged with robbery, multiple homicide and rape in connection with Sunday's attack in western Olongapo city.

He said at least two witnesses have identified them as being among five men seen scaling the fence at the back of the victims' residence.

Castaneda, head of the police criminal investigation group, said two other suspects were being sought.

Olongapo police chief Abelardo Villacorta said the body of Chang Suk-hi, 54, was found sprawled on the floor of a room with stab wounds to the neck. Her daughter and 10-year-old granddaughter were found stabbed to death on a bed in the same room, Villacorta said, adding they apparently had been raped.

Olongapo, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Manila, is near the former U.S. Subic naval base, which has been transformed into an industrial and tourism estate. Many South Koreans have opened businesses and factories in the sprawling estate.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Ryan back to hosting

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ryan Agoncillo returns to his first love, hosting, with two new big TV shows.

After a string of acting assignments with fiancée Judy Ann Santos (most notably, the movie "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" and the TV soap "Ysabella"), Ryan has been tapped to host TV5's "Talentadong Pinoy" and ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Fear Factor (South America)," Inquirer Entertainment learned from different sources from the two networks.

His last hosting gig, ABC 5's "Philippine Idol," wrapped up almost two years ago.

Going back to hosting, Ryan noted, is both "nerve-wracking and exciting at the same time."

"My hosting skills are a bit rusty," admitted Ryan, who has won hosting trophies from the KBP Golden Dove and

Ryan Agoncillo

Aliw Awards.

He said he was nervous when he auditioned for PFF. "I thought I did terribly."

He, however, believes that the vacation from the biz worked wonders on him.

Professionally, he said he was in "limbo," but personally, he was having the time of his life.

His time away from work, he explained, allowed him to take stock of "what's truly important."

Quality time

For the last six months, Ryan has been traveling the world with Judai, to whom he proposed marriage on the eve of her birthday in May.

"From the US, we went to Cuyo, Palawan (for the 'Ploning' shoot), where we stayed in February," he recalled. "Then we toured Europe for a month as a birthday treat for her. Early this July, we flew back to France for the Paris Cinema film festival. Last week, we went to the U.S. again (for 'Eat Bulaga')."

He hosted the U.S. show of the noontime top-rater and was awed by its trio of comic geniuses Tito, Vic and Joey, and the rest of the troupe.

He hopes that the quality time that they've enjoyed for the past six months will be more than enough to compensate for their busy schedule in the next few weeks.

After marathon tapings for "Talentadong Pinoy," he will fly to Argentina where he'll stay for over a month for PFF.

To prepare for the rigorous demands of his new jobs, Ryan has beefed up his workout regimen.

US-based Pinoy trainer Nio Halcon, who works with Ultimate Fighting champions like Randy "The Natural" Couture, drafted a CrossFit training program for Ryan, on top of his regular running and gym sessions.

'Suicide drill'

He fondly calls Halcon's fitness program a "suicide drill."

"It's 10 minutes of hell," he said. "It's designed to increase your heart rate in 10 minutes. At the end, I felt as if my heart was in my throat. I was cursing myself after two sessions."

He said the intense training would help him cope as he juggles two new shows.

"I actually started exercising for the soap 'Pieta,'" he said, which he will begin working on in September, upon his return from South America. "More than looking good, I also need to be fit, physically and mentally, for my new assignments."

Pinky Webb, Edu cozy in Vegas

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It's an open secret that Edu Manzano and Pinky Webb are a couple. They were reportedly like honeymooners in Vegas recently. No hasty wedding, though. What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas? Not when you're as famous as Edu and Pinky.

Unidentified

Angel Locsin was spotted in Fiama on a Monday with an unidentified date. Habitues of the bar insist that Gel and the nonshow biz guy were quite sweet. I informed her manager Becky Aguila about it via text but there's no word from her yet. After all the intrigues unfairly hurled at Gel, she deserves to have fun. Time out from show biz, time's ripe for romance?

Party girl

Also at Fiama, Phoemela Baranda was dancing playfully with Mico Palanca (ex of Bea Alonzo). He seemed rather coy as Phoem was doing her thing. Phoem's BF guitarist Ira Cruz need not worry. A party girl like Phoem just has her own way of spicing things up with good clean fun.

Guess who

Guess who this celebrity ex-GF of a hunky actor is. Her alta sociedad friends claim that she keeps putting show biz people down. She keeps blabbering about how baduy her ex is. Why was she with him to begin with? Is her disdain for show biz folk a delayed reaction or a bitter afterthought?

Intimate dinner

Cesar Montano will have an advanced birthday dinner on Wednesday at his resto Bellisimo. It's gonna be an intimate get-together with his closest chums. Buboy's not one who goes for lavish parties. Is he reserving his exact birthday for an even more intimate celebration with his wifey Sunshine?

Heard that she was supposed to be a surprise guest in "Singing Bee" for Buboy's pre-taped birthday show but she backed out at the last minute.

Will they finally put all their marital woes behind them? An older, wiser Buboy and a stronger marriage?

Like robots

"Artists these days are like robots na," Louie Heredia observed. "There are just too many of them. Not enough space and time for their personalities to shine." Louie and other '80s icons Randy Santiago, Gino Padilla and Raymond Lauchengco are all set to outshine each other in "Greatest Hits of the '80s" on Aug. 8 at the Aliw Theater, a concert for the benefit of Philippine Foundation for Tomorrow's Good Children (tickets 911-5555).

If your iPod is stuck on an '80s time warp like mine, this concert's for you. Let's name the tune in 80 seconds!

Unfinished business

"Daboy doesn't like drama. Ayaw niyang umiiyak ako. There's still a lot of unfinished business to be done before I can go back to work," said Lorna Tolentino. Even at her worst moments, Ms Forever Flawless managed to put a brave front gracefully. LT was my mom's fave pinch hitter in "Eye to Eye." I remember Ma used to tell me that "walang kaarte-arte and ka-ere ere si LT sa systema niya." She'll soon be taking a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for a different kind of R&R—Remembering Rudy.

Mauling charge

Former actress Princess Revilla, who is accused of maltreating her housemaid, on Monday filed her counter-affidavit in the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

But Revilla, Rebecca Bautista-Ocampo in real life, failed to submit one of the attachments to her counter-affidavit despite a five-day extension granted to her by the Pasig Prosecutor's Office last week.

This drew a protest from the prosecution who said that the court should have strictly implemented the deadline it earlier imposed on Revilla's camp.

Revilla, sister of Senator Bong Revilla, is being accused of mauling her housemaid, Renalyn Arota.

Irene Alogoc, Arota's lawyer, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that Revilla was supposed to present her two other maids, Cleofe Salceda and Marina Marbella, as her witnesses.

Their affidavits should have been submitted and attached to Revilla's affidavit in time for the deadline of filing Monday but Revilla's lawyers was not able to attach Marbella's statements, telling the court that it will submit the same on August 4.

PERSONAL FINANCE

'It's so hard to save'

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I always seem to be running out of money all the time even before payday comes along. I've tried making a budget before and it does not work. I can't keep to it, and more so now that prices have gone up. I do want to save but how can I do it when there's nothing to set aside? – Marie

Answer: Don't despair, Marie. There is always hope. The good thing is you have come to us for advice, and we would be glad to help you. In fact, that is what Take Charge of Your Money has been doing all along in its past columns: giving sound financial advice to those interested to put their financials in order. This is our 100th column.

Although you have tried making a budget, don't give up on it. A budget is the primary tool in taking charge of one's finances. With it, you will know how much you will be earning in a month, what expenses are absolutely essential, how much you can save, and how much you can spend on what you like. It sets your parameters, so to speak, so that you can manage your funds well and meet your financial goals.

You mentioned that your budget does not work and that you cannot keep to it. It is possible that you made a budget that's too stringent or not realistic. The prices of goods and services have gone up, and you need to revise your budget. You may also need to rethink the limits you set for your expense categories if you have extreme difficulty following them.

To make a workable budget, follow these simple steps:

1. Plot how much money you expect to come in this month. This will be your Money In, or your Income.

2. Pay yourself first - allot at least 10 percent for savings. You can do it and work on what's left.

3. Write down all the expenses you foresee you will incur within the month. Put the necessary ones first such as electricity, transportation, water, etc. For annualized bills such as tuition or insurance, get the monthly expense and input this in your monthly budget.

4. Based on your expenses last month and your previous bills, allot an amount beside each expense item.

5. If money seems to be short, commit to adjust the expense items that can be variable, such as food. To keep to this budgeted amount, eat more home-cooked meals and choose dishes that won't cost you much.

6. If you still have some money left, allot it as fun money which you can spend as you want.

With this budgeting style, you will be assured that you will be prioritizing saving for your future and will be able to meet necessary expenses.

Now it won't be a surprise if prices will still keep going up throughout the year, given the oil crisis. In that case, review your budget monthly and adjust if necessary to reflect price increases. This will help you avoid getting frustrated with budgeting.

If you see that your income won't be enough to meet your needs, find ways to increase your income. You can sell an asset you don't use, have a part-time job on weekends, or start a sideline business you can do after office or on weekends. The extra income will greatly help you.

Should your budget still seem too much, examine each expense item closely to find out where you can save. You may be surprised to discover that the little expenses you incur every day can put a dent on your budget.

Below are some seemingly small expenses you should be wary about:

■ Car wash. That's a minimum of P50 a week, P200 a month, or P2,400 a year. Why not burn some calories and do the car washing by yourself?

■ Coffee. If you buy it every day at a coffee shop at P100 per cup, you'll spend P500 a week or P2,000 a month. If you do it weekly, that's P400 a month or P4,800 a year.

■ Parking. If you spend P30 a day on parking (and that's already small as compared to other parking areas), that's P150 a week or P600 a month, or P7,200 a year.

■ Texting. Every text message you send costs P1. Analyze the messages you sent out in the past week and see which ones were unnecessary. You could have saved by not sending those, and using e-mail instead or the landline.

As you can see, we can all be caught unaware spending precious pesos on little things that don't seem to cost much. And yet, if you annualize them, you'll be surprised how much money went to them. The P4,800 annual coffee expense could have been put in a time deposit instead and earned you about 3.0 percent for the entire year. Given this, it does make sense to brew your own coffee at home to bring to work, doesn't it?

The bottom line is: take charge of your money. Find out where it goes, and where it should go. With a watchful eye, you'll manage your money better and build wealth for your future.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

Are Pea, *Assenso Pinoy* and GMA's SONA (State of the Nation Address)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

In the mid-'80s, I facilitated with the staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs regional conferences in Are Pea (RP) on sharing approaches that worked in village level socio-economic development. The ICA was instrumental in creating through its asset-based community development method the Sudtonggan Rock Industry that would produce the now familiar Mactan stone façade material for gated homes in the '80s and '90s. Some of it even made its way to buildings in the CNMI.

Features of the conferences included both public programs and civil sector services, corporate ventures and private entrepreneurs. One of the Institute's principle of authentic economic development is that services have to be commercially profitable to sustain it; even education as a social program has to be operated so that revenues exceeds expenditures, making it a viable and sustainable operation.

Two events this week featured images of viable entrepreneurship and sustainable social programs. First is the TV program Assenso Pinoy, which features successful ventures in the private sector. Its radio component airs examples of profitable entrepreneurship. Ebullient and populist Frank Cardona of Radio Corp. scours the countryside for examples the programs can air. One is an inventor who devised a simple tool to use discarded styrofoam for signage. Pagcor's facilities at the Manila Pavilion hosted the program's third year anniversary. The examples may sound tacky, or even contrived, but the fact that a media group is seeking out local asset-based business enterprises that work amidst the current widespread skepticism and cynicism is itself a notable feat.

The second event happened this Monday when Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) delivered her State of the Nation Address (SONA). GMA's image has been scarred by incidence of deceit and tarred by the alleged complicity of her immediate family to corruption. She survived a challenge to the validity of her election when the protesting opponent died, rendering any possible judgment for the plaintiff moot and academic. It, however, did not erase the picture of a pretender to the islands "republican" throne.

Ms. GMA's oratory was well coached. She began with a broad context of the critical turn in world history. She latched on to the global crisis brought about by the rapid rise of the cost of oil, the swift and searing industrial ascent of India and China, and the perennial rice shortage in the country. "Complex times defies simple and easy solutions," she intoned. While interdependence with allies needs to continue, "we still strive for greater self-reliance," she added.

She claimed that tough and unpopular choices were made (taking a side glance at her rock bottom rating in the polls) but that "we are prepared for the crisis; we have the money to feed the people and pay for the fuel."

It was a rational, well-crafted speech and delivered by a seasoned politico with the compelling props including the jeepney driver who doubled his take-home earnings because of some municipal ordinance, the heroic 15-year-old boy who saved his family in raging waters, and others. Quirino Province town mayor Camma, however, upstaged everyone when he decided to wear a literally cheeky and colorful *bahag* (g-string), overshadowing the renderings of the traditional couturiers.

But the announcement that poverty rates in the country is at its lowest in 20 years was no consolation to the alternative State of the Union gathering outside of the *Batasan Pambansa* (Congress). GMA's care for the underprivileged, teachers, OFWs and ordinary people did not feel compelling enough to the parliament of the street.

Traveling in northern Luzon the previous week, I passed by the Taggat Sur Elementary School compound in Claveria, Cagayan. The school is surrounded by healthy rainforest trees, and I was struck by the incongruous comparison of the school with its infamous and rapacious namesake, the Taggat Sawmill, that stripped Cagayan-Kalinga-Apayao of its virgin forest stands, while reportedly under-declaring its log shipments to Taiwan and Japan by a 1,000 percent, shortchanging the public coffers its due.

Something about Madame GMA's litany of accomplishments sounded hollow, and her list of promises to low energy users and small hospitals, supplementary calamity budget and no income tax for under 200K pesos earners, struck me as somewhat like extolling the virtues of the Taggat Sur Elementary School grounds to justify the previous logging operations of the Taggat Sawmill!

I sat after the SONA speech at the lobby of the old QC Sulo Hotel, still a favored hangout of politically-active luminaries. The clientele belong to the group that GMA referred to as the favored few consumers of 84 percent of the imported oil, and 90 percent of the country's generated electricity. Survivors of every political dispensations, these are people who are lucid about the fact that the periodic political sarzuela that Metropolitan Manila gets to play on behalf of the nation has no impact, for example, on stemming the rampant smuggling of locally grown rice to more lucrative overseas markets, leaving the government-subsidized imports to the pickings of the well-connected traders and brokers, and giving the impression that the Filipino farmer is not producing enough to meet local consumption. Rice self-sufficiency as a goal is a farce when, in fact, people are earning tons behind the artificially induced shortage by exporting the produce to alien tables.

The SONA is the World bank quadrupling loans so that Are Pea can service its debts and double it in the process, the government subsidizes seeds to rice farmers while population growth remains above 2 percent, natural family planning pacifies the RC hierarchy which the middle class happily ignores, the government swine-raising loan is 5 billion pesos down in collectibles, and the terminated land reform program is being pushed once more after it failed to do its job in the last 60 years.

Somehow the state of the sidewalk on Matalino St. QC by the Heart Center spoke more of the state of the nation. A mother suckles her emaciated infant on the sidewalk not too far from an open sewer where the collapsed cover remains in disrepair after it caved in from one of the periodic calamitous typhoons; sidewalk hawkers induce passersby to patronize the makeshift food stalls susceptible to dust and flies as Mercedez Benz-riding *matronas* drag their kids and *ayahs* along the street corridor from the upscale Trellis and lowly Jollibee; and the oblivious but incorrigible *masa* live their daily lives patronizing the myriad of street vendors while the inefficient ubiquitous pedicabs subvert the physical fitness that would normally come from walking.

A young lawyer with a gargantuan social conscience and a pro bono practice for downtrodden clients, nevertheless, do not winch to show off the designer watch, pens, and pencil set he just acquired for 900K pesos, an amount that the hotel doorman could not earn in a year if his life depended on it. Are Pea casually takes it for granted as normal to have a few fabulously wealthy among its citizens, amidst a sea of extremely poor compliant workers in this blessed Land of the Morning.

Let's hope Madame GMA does not make the mistake of admonishing the well-off regarding the masses: "Let them eat cake!" Meanwhile, a dear colleague, upon reading this reflection, commented that perhaps, since I am being playful with the nation's acronyms, and given the situation in the land, I should call it Are Pee!

Oh Kay!

Lying in state

THERE'S THE RUB
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
Philippine Daily Inquirer

The state of the nation wasn't to be found in the words, it was to be found in the images.

The opening of the ceremonies set the tone for it: same scene, slight change of characters. There was Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo flanked by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, except that last year it was Manuel Villar and Jose de Venecia while this year it was Villar and Prospero Nograles. What a difference a year makes! Which is why, despite De Venecia's carping against government and threats to expose Arroyo today, I have little love for him. Only last year, he was the one inveigling the audience to clap loudly while introducing the speaker, "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the Republic of the Philippines." This time around it was Nograles who did the honors, or dishonors.

Villar, now as then, remained stolid, refusing to applaud. I don't know whether that was because he objected to Arroyo being called president or to the kiss of death that being seen applauding her threatened. But it was, and is, a brilliant pre-election campaign tack, one that could win him tons of votes in 2010—assuming there would be elections then. The image drove home the point of a house divided, which reminded the nation again of something the person about to speak predicted would happen if she ran for president in 2004, which was to cause never-ending divisiveness to befall the land.

The image also gave me insights into the Zen riddle, "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" But that's another story.

The true state of the nation was to be found as well in the interminableness of the speech. Malacañang had earlier told the press that Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (SONA) would be brief this time, only around 15 pages, full of humility and chastisement. After last year's deadening enumeration of government's presumed accomplishments—a roll-on, roll-off speech full of rah-rah for Number One—I thought Arroyo had finally discovered that the best way to appease an enraged public was to give it some respite.

I should have known better than to believe any of Malacañang's promises, political or oratorical. The speech turned out to be longer than last year's, as Arroyo trotted out more Exhibit A's to convince the nation that "ramdam na ramdam na ang kaunlaran" [the prosperity is really felt], this time pointing to ordinary citizens in lieu of extraordinary local officials. The only break in the interminability was the introduction of Nagtipuan town's Mayor Rosario Camma, who attended the SONA in formal tribal wear, which gave whole new dimensions into the meanings of transparency and (semi-)naked truth. Alas for him, with the naked truth about him being known, which is that he is a Arroyo protégé, he might not be mayor for long.

It was close to an hour when Arroyo finished, reminding the nation of two things. One is how long she has been there. This was her eighth SONA, the most number by any ruler of this country, and the only unelected one, since Ferdinand Marcos. One is tempted to say that at the rate she's going, one dreads to think what her swan song next year would be. But that presumes it will be her swan song, which is a monumental presumption. What particularly scared me was the part where she said she was doing everything to make life easier for her successor, "the next president whoever it might be." She said exactly the same thing before: "If we achieve these [reforms], my successor as president will be in a good position to lead the Philippines through the next decisive steps for the strong and modern society." That was in the speech where she said she would not run in 2004. As it turned out, by successor, she meant herself.

Two is how unrelentingly oppressive her being there has been. During her speech, the cameras caught people yawning, snoring and fuming silently you could almost see the smoke rising from their heads. The only thing that comforted me was the thought that finally the congressmen were being given a taste, if only for an hour, of what the citizenry has had to endure all these years. But I felt badly for everybody else, including those who were sent to hospitals for various ailments from the sight (and shriek) of the modern-day Medusa. For one brief moment, I wished I didn't have to write a column and wasn't forced to watch that spectacle. But I realized almost immediately that if I didn't have a column, I would count among the bedraggled horde bursting our hospitals at the seams.

In the end, the SONA brought back an image from not so long ago, which gave me the sensation of being caught in a time warp. That was the twilight of martial law, when Marcos, buffeted by lupus, and Cory Aquino went to the Batasan legislative building to try to persuade the nation to know an entirely different state. There are differences between then and now. Congress then was unicameral (today there's the House and Senate), there were no surveys and a free press to show Marcos' horrendous unpopularity (he could continue to claim he spoke for the silent majority), and there were no protest rallies and alternative SONAs to apprise the nation of its true state.

But the same aura was there, the aura of death and decay. It evoked a world or state so far removed from this one, never mind from this nation, it might as well have been located in the darker corners of the afterlife. The same air of remoteness was there, the same air of isolation was there, the same air of a phantasmagoric reality was there. Even the faces were the same, faces ravaged by physical and spiritual disease, by the lupus of moral bankruptcy and corruption, by the cancer of greed and selfishness, by the miasma of a living death or a dead life like the grotesquely beatific masks worn by the embalmed.

That was what the SONA was last Monday, a lot of lying in state—in more ways than one.

Samu't Sari

STREET MARKET
Rhea and Ann of Lucky R Restaurant, Catering, and Bakery strike a pose inside their booth at the Garapan Street market Thursday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WELCOME TO SAIPAN!
Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio and other members of the group gather for a photo during a welcome party hosted by the Human Dignity Movement for human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal and her daughter Nani at Garapan Central Park Saturday night.

Filipino nonresident workers listen to human rights advocate Wendy L. Doromal during a welcome party hosted by the Human Dignity Movement at Garapan Central Park Saturday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio talks to parents of U.S. citizen children during a meeting at the Kilili Beach pavilion late Wednesday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Coalition of United Workers president Irene Tantiado talks to parents of U.S. citizen children during a meeting at the Kilili Beach pavilion late Wednesday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Parents of U.S. citizen children clap their hands for Wendy L. Doromal during a meeting at the Kilili Beach pavilion late Wednesday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PARTY TIME
Aleth, Jhie and friends enjoying the night at Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Iver Jude Dimaun blows her candle as she celebrates her 3rd birthday. Also in photo is her little sister Izea Joseign.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUMMER SPLASH
Rhythm and Body Crew kids Judy Ann, Alyssa, Mikee, Ailene, Mmelissa and Anabel spend their Saturday morning frolicking at the pool of Saipan Grand Hotel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KODAK MOMENT
Rhythm and Body Crew kids Rose, Bryce, Jenny and Shandel at the Saipan Grand Hotel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

Saipan summer sports camp ends

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' sports camp that started in July 22 ended yesterday with a total of 150 children participating.

The camp participants ranged in age from 6 to 12 and each camper was assigned to groups according to age.

The children were introduced to a variety of leisure, health, fine arts, and fitness activities.

For the Day Camp, activities that were offered included talaya throwing, cooking, Tahitian dancing, canoeing, swimming, and community presentations.

For the Sports Camp, activities included tee-ball/softball, track and field, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and badminton.

Organizers of the summer camp said that their goal was to increase self-awareness among participants to create a healthy lifestyle that includes physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual health.

"With the despairing incidences of obesity, heart disease, physical inactivity, and diabetes here in the island, it is our mission to foster a spirit of physical activity and recreation to these campers that they make health and wellness a part of their lives," said event coordinator Joey Dela Cruz.

The summer sports camp is available every summer.

"The staff members and volunteers were positive role models for our campers," said Dela Cruz. "They are certified first aid and CPR instructors, certified water safety instructors, and certified coaches."

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
One of the activities offered during the summer sports camp was badminton.

Computer classes at library until end of August

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Even as summer is drawing to a close, the computer classes being offered by the Joeten Kiyu Public Library have a few more sessions before they end on the last week of August.

Classes are divided into two sessions: the Beginning and Advance.

For the beginning category, you will learn some basic information such as browsing the Internet and Microsoft Office application like Microsoft Word and Excel.

For the advance category, you will learn Adobe Photoshop.

The process of joining is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and each class only has a maximum of six people a week. You are allowed to take the classes only once.

JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
The computer terminals at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is popular among the library's patrons.

Information Technology Center coordinator Roy Rechebei is handling the sessions five days a week and each session is about an hour and a half. Time schedule varies, however, when there are power outages.

"It's been sparse due to the schedule, it has been not as filled as it was last year," said Rechebei.

The classes started in June.

Reference, children's books high on Bestseller's summer sales list

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

This summer, reference books and children's books lead the sales figures at the island's lone bookstore, Bestseller.

A check with the bookstore showed that popular among the store's customers are children's books that include some basic educational materials such as ABC, math, and coloring books.

Among reference books, the most popular are educational tomes such as the SATS, TOEFL, and ASVAB.

The new edition of the 2009 SAT is sold for $22.

Children's books and SAT1 preparation manuals are high on Bestseller's summer sales.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOUNGSTYLE PUZZLES

'Little Mermaid' Quiz

By CAITLIN BALL and COLBY BLANGIARDO
Kidsday Reporters
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

Take this quiz to find out how much you know about the 1989 Disney movie "The Little Mermaid":

1. What is the name of Ariel's father?
a. King Triton
b. King Atlantis
c. King Thomas

2. What was the prince's name?
a. George
b. Eric
c. Bob

3. Who's the story's villain?
a. Jafar
b. Scar
c. Ursula

4. Sebastian was a:
a) seahorse
b) flounder
c) crab

5. Which two songs does Sebastian sing?
a. "Kiss the Girl" and "Disco Inferno"
b. "Under the Sea" and "Kiss the Girl"
c. "The Jitterbug" and "Kiss the Girl"

6. "The Little Mermaid" is based on a fairy tale by:
a) The Brothers Grimm
b) Hans Christian Andersen
c) J.K. Rowling

ANSWERS: 1) a, 2) b, 3) c, 4) c, 5) b, 6) b

NEW YORK YANKEES TRIVIA

By Kristen Perrone
KIDSDAY REPORTER

The Yankees are one of the most popular teams in baseball. This season is the last in Yankee Stadium. Think you know your stuff about the Yankees? Try my quiz:

1. When did Alex Rodriguez hit his 500th career home run?
A. July 27, 1999
B. Sept. 2, 2002
C. Aug. 4, 2007
D. May 15, 2005

2. How many World Series titles have the Yankees won?
A. 36
B. 26
C. 10
D. 40

3. What are the names of the past four players who have been captains of the Yankees (including the current captain)?
A. Jorge Posada, Frank Torre, Phil Rizzuto and Babe Ruth.
B. Bernie Williams, Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry and Mickey Mantle.
C. Johnny Damon, Mark McGwire, Sparky Anderson and Satchel Paige.
D. Derek Jeter, Don Mattingly, Ron Guidry and Willie Randolph.

4. How many numbers have the Yankees retired?
A. 16
B. 8
C. 20
D. 17

ANSWERS: 1) c, 2) b, 3) d, 4) a (the number 8 was retired twice)

Jokes for kids

By Kidsday Staff Reporters
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

What do you call a cow with a twitch?
Beef jerky

If you take off its first letter, last letter, and middle letter it still sounds the same. What word is this?
Empty -- mpty -- mpt -- mt

Bob's mother had three children: one named May, one named June, and one named what?
Bob.

What do you call a sheep covered in chocolate?
A Hershey baaaa.

Patient: I keep thinking I am flour being baked in an oven.
Doctor: Stop loafing around.

What is Snow White's brother's name?
Egg White.

How do you stop a skunk from smelling?
Hold its nose.

What do you call a computer super hero?
A screen saver.

What did the pig say when he went to the beach?
"I'm bacon."

What do you get when you cross a hula dancer with a boxer?
A Hawaiian punch

What happened to the dog that swallowed a firefly?
It barked with delight.

There was a doctor and a fireman, and they both were in love with the same woman. One day the fireman had to go away for a week and he gave the woman seven apples. Why?
Because an apple a day keeps the doctor away.

What does an evil chicken lay?
Deviled eggs.

A ray of hope

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

In the continuing KidsPost Summer Book Club, children's book author Christopher Paul Curtis recommends "Feathers." Book review by Marylou Tousignant.

"Feathers," by Jacqueline Woodson
Ages 8-12

"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune — without the words
And never stops at all"

'FEATHERS' FACT

Writer Emily Dickinson, whose poem fascinates the main character in "Feathers," lived from 1830 to 1886. Many of the 1,775 poems she wrote were found after her death by her sister. ***(The Washington Post)***

Eleven-year-old Frannie is struck by the beauty of the Emily Dickinson poem she's studying in school — how the words just seem "to float," even if Frannie is not exactly sure what they mean. Her mom says maybe it's a poem about looking forward, about being hopeful about the future.

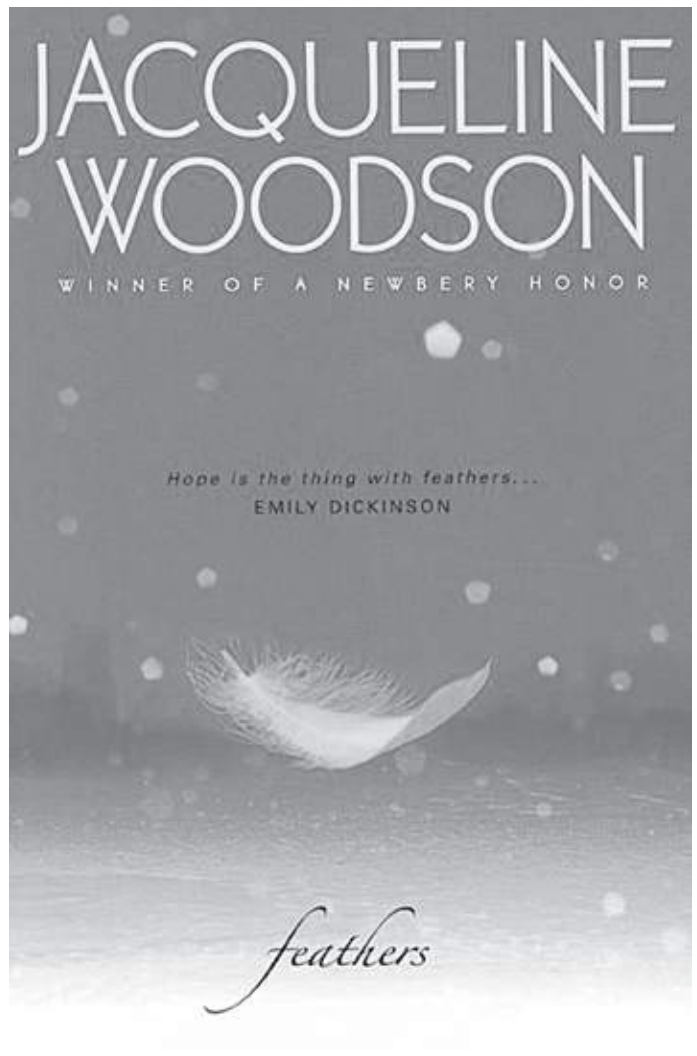
For now, though, Frannie is caught up in the present, which in this story is the winter of 1971. She worries about the health of her mom, who is pregnant again after several miscarriages; about her brother Sean, who is deaf and longs to be accepted in the hearing world; and about the new boy at her all-black school who is taunted for his pale skin and who Frannie's best friend thinks is Jesus returning to restore hope in the world.

This is a story about how people are different yet can share the same thoughts and feelings and, most of all, hope.

SCANNING THE SHELVES

Poetry fans, check out "Locomotion," another novel by Jacqueline Woodson. A New York fifth-grader named Lonnie recounts, through various poetic styles, losing his parents and being separated from his little sister.

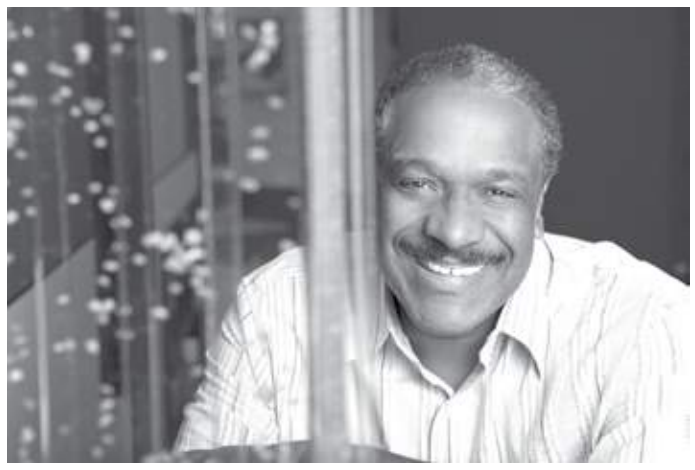
In "Love That Dog," Sharon Creech tells the story of a boy named Jack who discovers, much to his surprise, that poetry isn't that bad — and it's not just for girls. ***(The Washington Post)***



THE WASHINGTON POST
KidsPost Summer Book Club selection "Feathers," by Jacqueline Woodson, is the story of the awakening and growth of an 11-year-old girl, set in the 1970s.

Reading with the stars: Christopher Paul Curtis

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST
Christopher Paul Curtis spent 13 years working on an auto assembly line in Michigan before achieving success as a writer. His "Bud, Not Buddy" won the Newbery Medal as best children's book in 2000.

From his very first children's novel, published 13 years ago, Christopher Paul Curtis has been collecting awards. "The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963" was a Newbery Honor recipient, as was this year's "Elijah of Buxton." In between, "Bud, Not Buddy" won the Newbery Medal as best children's book in 2000.

Curtis, who spent 13 years working on an auto assembly line in Michigan before achieving success as a writer, knows something about hope, which is the subject of the book he recommends.

"I have to make an admission," he says. "I was not a reader of books when I was a youngster; I read tons of comic books, magazines, newspaper articles and, of course, the books my teachers made me read. It wasn't until I was 19 years old and working in a factory in Flint, Michigan, that I discovered a true love for books. My first reaction when I read a book that really, really touched me was, `Oh, man, think how many years I wasted by not reading books!'

"Now that I am a writer of books for young people and have had the chance to read tons of books, I can see even better how much I missed as a young person.

"If you were to ask me what book has really, really touched me recently, it is the latest book by a brilliant writer named Jacqueline Woodson. The book is `Feathers,' and it is spectacular, very quiet and very moving. `Feathers' is a story of the awakening and growth of a sixth-grade girl named Frannie, and after you read it you'll believe that `Hope is (the) thing with feathers/ That perches in the soul.'

"The main reason I recommend this book so highly is because when I finished it I thought to myself, if I would have had a book like this in the sixth grade, I know I would have fallen in love with reading at a much, much younger age."

How do lie detectors work?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Police dramas on television or in the movies often show suspects hooked up to a lie detector being grilled with questions. The device, also called a polygraph, doesn't really detect a lie, but it can monitor changes in the way a person reacts to a specific question.

Polygraphs work through special sensors that measure things such as a person's heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate and sweat.

When a person answers questions, the results are recorded as jagged lines on a piece of paper that moves through the machine.

The tester begins by asking the person simple questions, such as the day of the week or the color of a shirt. That way the person's responses to ordinary questions can be measured.

Then the tester begins to ask more serious questions about the specific crime. The idea is that if the person is lying, he or she will start to sweat more and his or her heart will beat faster. Such behavior causes the jagged lines that are recording the answers to go up in peaks.

Lie detectors aren't always accurate, and judges sometimes don't allow the results to be used in a trial.

Critics of lie detectors say that changes in heart rate and other such responses can be triggered by various things, including being nervous about taking a polygraph test, not just a lie. And they say that some people can lie and still pass a polygraph.

Here are some ways people try to fool a polygraph: by taking a drug that makes you calm or even by putting antiperspirant on their fingertips.

Some also may try to force their body to react the same way after each question — the simple ones and the more complicated ones — by biting their lip after each one or stepping on a tack that they have put inside their shoe.

Still, police find the tool useful during some investigations as a way to find the culprit. And, of course, lying anytime is the wrong thing to do. Remember, kids, that the best lie detector is a parent!

Source: "The Handy Answer Book for Kids (and Parents)" by Judy Galens and Nancy Pear

Ever wondered why horses sleep standing up?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

HORSE TRIVIA

WASHINGTON — Horses can see two ways: Like humans, they can focus both eyes on the same thing, but they also have monocular vision, which means they can see different images in each eye. ***(The Washington Post)***

It wouldn't be terribly comfortable for you to snooze standing up, but the opposite is true for horses. That's because of the way their bodies are built.

Horses have bones and ligaments (the elastic bands that connect bones at the joints) in their legs that can lock together in a special way. That allows the animals to be completely relaxed while standing.

Because they don't have to exert any energy, sleeping while upright poses no problem for a horse. In fact, it is preferable to lying down. Horses are heavy animals with big muscles, but their bones are surprisingly delicate. Lying in one position for too long could injure a horse.

Horses do, however, sometimes take short naps while lying on the ground in an area where they feel safe.

How did this happen? Scientists say it evolved over time. Horses probably developed their habit of sleeping upright as a defense against predators.

Their speed is their main defense in the wild, and it takes horses longer than most animals to pull themselves upright. A standing position keeps a horse constantly ready to race away if danger approaches.

Horses' ability to stand in that special way is called the "stay apparatus." They use it even while they are awake to avoid getting tired. Horses can stand for a very long time — a few years — without getting tired.

So how can you tell whether a horse is awake or asleep? It's probably napping when its head and bottom lip are drooping.

Source: "The Handy Answer Book for Kids (and Parents)," by Judy Galens and Nancy Pear.

How does a snake eat things bigger than its head?

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you had a head like a snake's, you could swallow a watermelon whole, no problem! All you need is a flexible skull, backward-curved teeth and very elastic skin.

A snake swallows the prey's head first, and produces lots of saliva to ease the prey down its throat.

Let's start with that skull:

The bones are connected by elastic ligaments, which have a lot of stretch. The joint of the upper and lower jaws is set far back in the skull, allowing the mouth to open as wide as possible. The bones of the lower jaw are not fused at the front, enabling the snake's lower jaw to widen to make room for its meal. The skin stretches.

The quadrate bone, loosely attached on each side of the joint, enables the snake's lower jaws to move independently side to side.

And the teeth? A snake's teeth are angled toward the throat and act as hooks to prevent live prey from wiggling loose. The snake uses these teeth to help "walk" the prey down its throat.

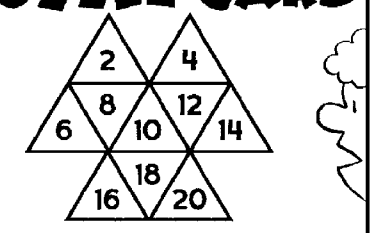
Snake teeth are attached to the bone and can grow back when lost. A snake may have several sets of teeth throughout its lifetime.

A snake swallows the prey's head first, and produces lots of saliva to ease the prey down its throat. In some cases, it may take more than an hour for the snake to swallow an animal. Once the prey has been swallowed, the snake reconnects its bottom jaw with a wide yawn. Remember, the snake's jaws were designed to do this, so it doesn't hurt.

How does the snake breathe while its mouth and throat are full? The windpipe can be pushed forward over the tongue and out the mouth so the snake's airway is not blocked.

Source: Matt Evans, biologist and herpetologist at the National Zoo in Washington

PUZZLE CARD

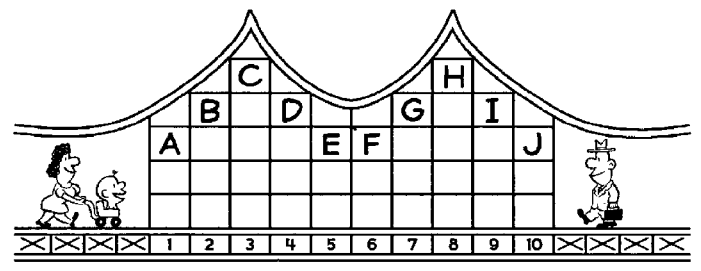


SEE IF YOU CAN rearrange the numbers in the small triangles so that the total of the four numbers in each of the large triangles (left, right, lower and center) is equal to 50.

Answer: Top row: 2, 12. Middle row: 18, 10, 20, 4, 14. Bottom row: 6, 16, 8.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A WORD BRIDGE! The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. To perform.
2. A large supporting timber.
3. A mound of stones; a marker.
4. Head of college.
5. Main item in a souffle.
6. (Scottish) Having visionary powers.
7. This happens when goods exceed demand.
8. A large aquatic African animal.
9. A small island.
10. A triangular sail.

Answers: 1. Act. 2. Beam. 3. Cairn. 4. Dean. 5. Egg. 6. Fey. 7. Glut. 8. Hippo. 9. Isle. 10. Jib.

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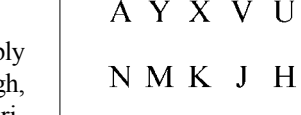
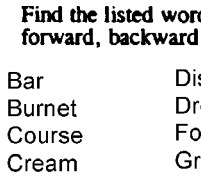
TARGET PRACTICE TIME! What four-letter word do these arrrows spell out?



Answer: From left to right, they are pointing to the four cardinal points of the compass, (N) North, (E) East, (W) West and (S) South, thus spelling the word NEWS.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Pack, pace, pane, pans, pine, pins, pips, pipe.

Dog won't stop jumping up

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog "Farley" is a big, friendly Golden Retriever. He loves to jump up on people when they come in. Unfortunately, the people don't like it very much, and I worry about him knocking down smaller kids. I tell him "no" each time, but he still does it. How can I get him to stop jumping up? — Betty S., via e-mail

DEAR BETTY: K.H. Scott, a reader who recently wrote in, offers some sound advice on teaching dogs not to jump up:

"I found that if you hold its front legs up so it's just standing on its hind legs for a much longer time than the dog likes, looking it in the eyes and saying 'Don't jump,' works very nicely.

"I only had to do that twice with my neighbor's dog before he learned what I meant. Now, when he comes toward me I just say, 'Don't jump.' When he doesn't, he gets a pat on the head, a scratch behind the ears, and 'Good dog!' I get a good licking and a wagging tail instead of being almost knocked over."

So, give that a try. When Farley jumps up on you, hold his paws gently and keep him standing up -- usually 10 seconds is long enough for a dog to become uncomfortable. Then let him drop down onto all four paws. You also can instruct friends or frequent visitors to do the same. Be sure to praise him when he stays on all four paws at your command.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Here's a factoid for all those wage slaves out there: Researchers conducting a comprehensive 25-year study found that more than 90 percent of workers see productivity increases when they take afternoon naps.

■ It was American journalist and satirist H.L. Mencken who made the following observation: "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and hence clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

■ If you're like most Americans, you probably have at least one credit card. It's a fair bet, though, that you don't have an American Express Centurion card; it's extremely elite and offered by invitation only. The service is legendary, though -- one cardholder reportedly took a fancy to the horse ridden by Kevin Costner in the film "Dances With Wolves," so the concierge department tracked down the animal, purchased it and had it delivered to the member's home in Europe.

■ Presidential historians claim that John F. Kennedy was probably the best golfer to occupy the Oval Office.

■ In ancient Greece, olive oil was thought to be an effective sunblock.

■ The highest fever ever suffered and survived by a human is 115.7 degrees F. It was in Atlanta, in 1980, and the man spent 24 days recovering before he was released from the hospital.

■ If you really can't let go of that lost loved one, call LifeGem. This company offers to create a synthetic diamond from the "carbonized remains" (read: ashes) of deceased people or pets -- for the bargain price of about $2,500.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Do not think of knocking out another person's brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself 10 years ago." — Horace Mann

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MAGIC MAZE ● SALAD —

T N J F C Y V R O L H E B X U
R O L I E T B Y V S Q N K R H
E B V E G E T A B L E S Y E W
T R O L K N G J G O E B Y T W
U R P R N R I R K I W M G T D
B Z X V A U O S E T A L P A S
Q O M K I B G F S E V A E L H
E C A Y W L U S R E N N I P S
Q P N L J H I C U F R S E C I
A Y X V U S N O O P S D Q P D
N M K J H F E C C B Z Y X V U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bar, Burnet, Course, Cream, Dish, Dressing, Fork, Greens, Leaves, Oil, Plate, Platter, Spinner, Spoon, Vegetables

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		16
x		+		÷	
	x		–		19
–		x		+	
	x		+		23
23		16		17	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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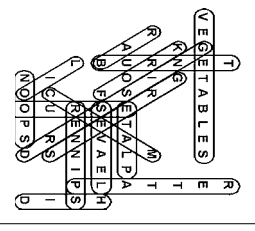
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

6	–	4	x	8	16
x		+		÷	
5	x	4	–	1	19
–		x		9	
7	x	2	+	9	23

Turn water bottles into stylish bangles

If you're drinking lots of water these hot summer days, there's probably an empty plastic water bottle in a cup holder in your car, on your bicycle or perhaps an almost-empty one in front of you as you are reading this paper. Before you toss that bottle into your recycle bin, reclaim it! Repurpose it! Use it to make hip and stylish bangle bracelets with your preteen age daughter and her friends.

This nod to haute couture will not only save you money, but your own budding "Project Runway" designers will enjoy wearing the bangles throughout the summer. When someone asks, "Where did you get your bracelet?" it's fun to answer with a grin, "From a water bottle!"

As you take that last sip out of your water bottle, I hope you'll be curious enough to say to yourself "What about a bangle? What about a water bottle bangle?"

Let's get started:

First, remove the label from a standard pint-size plastic water bottle. Cut a 1-inch-wide plastic loop for each bangle. To help you get started with the cutting, poke a hole into the plastic with a pushpin. Remove it, then guide the sharp point of a scissor into the hole and begin cutting around the bottle. If your bottle has a circular groove in it, use it as a guide.

Here are some ideas for distinctive designs to express your style and personality:

Friendship Bangle: Arrange small cutout photos of faces of friends in a horizontal row in the middle of the sticky side of an 8-inch length of clear packing tape. Carefully wrap it around the outside of the bangle. Press excess tape on each edge over the bangle to the inside to hold it in place.

Tip: If you are having a birthday or slumber party, take a photo of all the guests standing in a row with heads at the same height. Print out a copy of the picture on your computer for each person, trim and wrap around the outside of a bangle. Cover and secure in place with clear tape. Add mini charms, if you wish.

Painted Bangle: Paint the inside and outside of the plastic with acrylic paint. When dry, add a coat of non-toxic varnish to protect the paint. Make designs on the outside with glitter paint.

Jeweled Bangle: Glue shiny fabric to the outside. Glue ribbon or trim, and add craft gems.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Celebs urge legal curbs on aggressive paparazzi

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The police chief says Britney's been behaving herself, Lindsay may be distracted by love and Paris is - "thank God," in his words - out of town. Others say it's the photographers, not their targets, who should calm down.

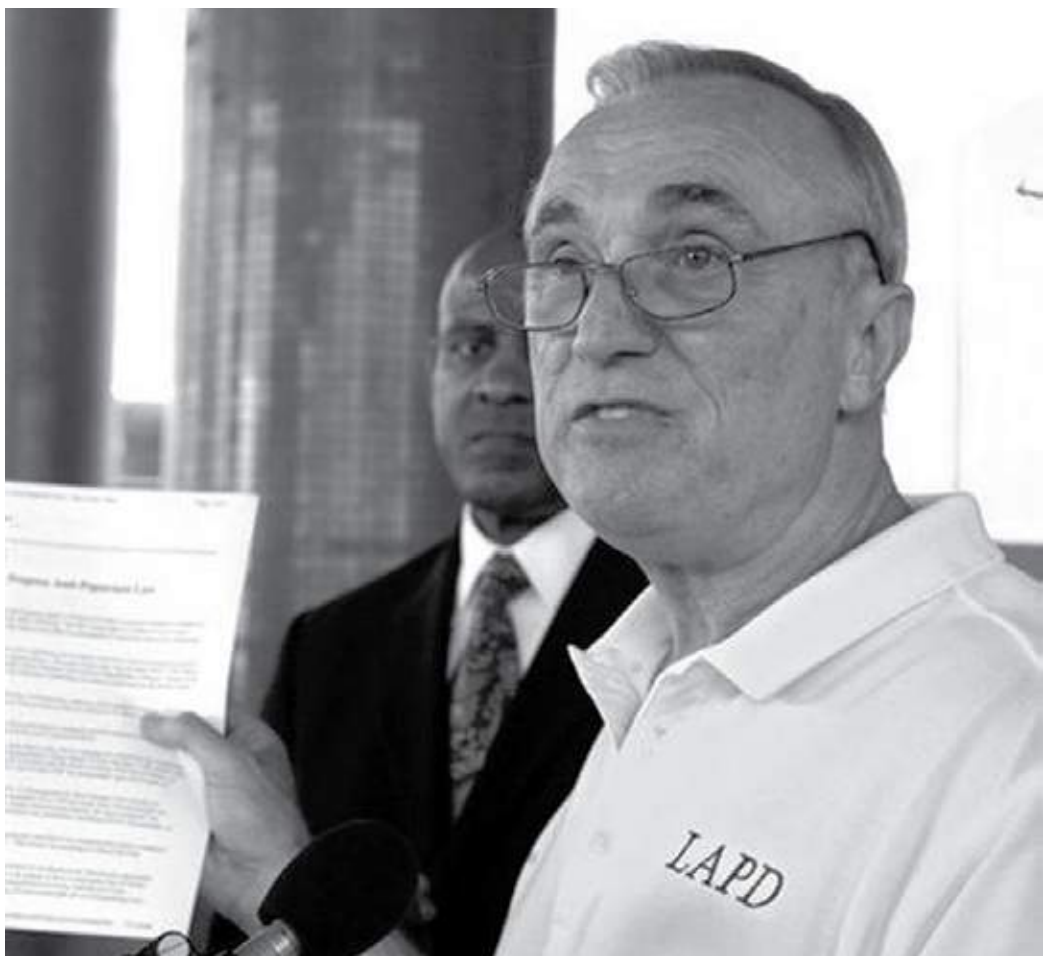
During a marathon complaint session Thursday, those who blame the paparazzi - from city officials to John Mayer - began working on ways to tame them.

"They act like a pack of wolves," Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine said at a meeting he convened Thursday to discuss the issue. "The behavior of the paparazzi is out of control, it needs to be reined in."

Zine, a former Los Angeles police sergeant, is spearheading the attempt to regulate the paparazzi, a cause he took up when he learned it cost a reported $25,000 for police to accompany Britney Spears to the hospital when she had a breakdown earlier this year.

The meeting came at a slow period for the paparazzi. Spears' behavior has stabilized under the conservatorship of her father; Lindsay Lohan has been keeping a lower profile and spending considerable time with gal pal Samantha Ronson; and Paris Hilton told AP earlier this year that she's "always traveling."

Without the paps' top targets in action, Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton dismissed Zine's efforts as a "total waste of time."



AP

Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton speaks at news conference following a hearing about paparazzi behavior Thursday, July 31, 2008, in Los Angeles.

"If you notice, since Britney started wearing clothes and behaving; Paris is out of town not bothering anybody anymore, thank God, and evidently, Lindsay Lohan has gone gay, we don't seem to have much of an issue," Bratton told KNBC-TV on Thursday.

He later called a news conference outside police headquarters to clarify his position on the paparazzi. When asked about the Lohan remark - which followed months of tabloid speculation that Lohan and Ronson, a DJ, are dating—Bratton said his sister is gay and he is a huge proponent of gay rights.

LA *chief*: Pap laws '*farce*' with Britney '*behaving*'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police Chief William Bratton said Thursday the city has had fewer problems with paparazzi since Britney Spears "started wearing clothes" and other celebrities changed their partying ways.

"If you notice, since Britney started wearing clothes and behaving; Paris is out of town not bothering anybody anymore, thank God, and evidently, Lindsay Lohan has gone gay, we don't seem to have much of an issue," Bratton told KNBC-TV.

Bratton said the altered behavior makes proposals being considered for new laws to crack down on paparazzi an unnecessary "farce" because photogs who swarm neighborhoods and shopping districts have been losing interest in snapping stars in trouble.

"If the ones that attract the paparazzi behave in the first place, like we expect of anybody, that solves about 90 percent of the problem. The rest we can deal with," he said.

Bratton, wearing gray gym clothes with a towel around his neck, said he interrupted his workout to speak to a TV reporter after hearing Councilman Dennis Zine discussing possible new restrictions on freelance photographers. Zine was set to lead a meeting later in the day at City Hall to discuss ways to restrict aggressive paparazzi.

Officials from celeb enclaves in and around Los Angeles such as Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Malibu were to take part.

Bratton called the hearing "grandstanding and foolishness" and said he would not take part.

"We have sufficient laws on the books" to deal with aggressive paparazzi, he said.

Bratton later made similar remarks to other TV stations.

Zine said his concerns about paparazzi were prompted by the $25,000 that police spent to escort Spears from her Studio City home to a West Los Angeles medical center for a psychiatric evaluation in January.

Zine has authored a motion for the city to require a "personal safety zone" around celebs, but it has not yet been heard by the City Council. Bratton has said such an ordinance would be ambiguous and difficult to enforce.

In the past, the city has used existing ordinances to curb paparazzi. Earlier this month, for example, police arrested two photographers for loitering near Spears' home.

Memories of 'Spider-Man,' 'Star Wars' for sale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Everybody is a collector, the way Joe Maddalena sees it, just not everybody wants to collect paintings by Andy Warhol or Roy Lichtenstein. Some would prefer to own a Spider-Man costume.

"It's the same exact thing as collecting contemporary art," Maddalena says of buying and selling pop culture artifacts like one of the outfits Tobey Maguire wore in the "Spider-Man" movies or the gun Clint Eastwood toted in "The Outlaw Josey Wales."

"Pop culture has become the thing to collect, whether it's contemporary art or pop art," continues Maddalena, who has been in the business of buying and selling artifacts for 22 years. "And now that art has started to transfer over to film and television."

As a result, on Thursday and Friday he'll have one of his largest sales yet, putting some 1,100 items on the auction bloc. They range from sought-after pieces such as a miniature fighter ship from the first "Star Wars" movie that he expects will fetch more than $100,000 to the "Bat Radio" that Adam West used in the campy 1960s TV show "Batman" (estimated to bring $8,000 to $12,000).

Particularly big this year, Maddalena said as he prepared for the auction this week, are superhero costumes. He's not only got one worn by Maguire in "Spider-Man," but also another worn by Ben Affleck in "Daredevil" and still others worn by Ian McKellen (as Magneto) and Anna Paquin (as Rogue) in "X-Men."

And to think that Maddalena began his company, Profiles in History, as a historical documents dealership, selling things such as letters from Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

Scrabulous returns with a new name and new rules

NEW YORK (AP)—Scrabulous is back on Facebook, but now it has a new name, new rules and circular tiles that could help its makers skirt legal claims from the owners of Scrabble.

The return came less than two days after the creators of Scrabulous blocked their popular version of the word game from U.S. and Canadian users of Facebook, the online hangout. The Indian brothers behind Scrabulous had gotten sued in federal court by Hasbro Inc., the owner of Scrabble's North American rights.

Now, the game has reappeared with the name Wordscraper. The change could help it avoid any brand confusion with Scrabble, a key point in trademark disputes.

The game itself has also changed. Instead of Scrabble-like square tiles, for instance, Wordscraper has circles. The tiles earning double and triple points have been rearranged, and tiles for quadruple points have been added.

Whether those design changes will protect the creators from claims of copyright infringement remains to be seen.

Ideas cannot be copyrighted, but expressions of ideas can. The case could turn on whether Wordscraper feels more like Scrabble or a generic board game based on words.

"It's going to come down to the little things like squares and circles and double, triple and so on," said Ethan Horwitz, an intellectual-property lawyer at King and Spalding in New York. "What they've done is taking a step in the right direction, but I don't think it's a big enough step."

Furthermore, Wordscraper lets users design custom boards, including versions that happen to resemble Scrabble. In such cases, Wordscraper might claim federal protections from liability for their users' actions.

Durning gets star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—From World War II hero to dancer and award-winning actor, Charles Durning has lived a storied life. The 85-year-old added to that resume Thursday with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next to one for his idol, James Cagney.

"Cagney was my favorite actor and favorite person," Durning told The Associated Press after the ceremony unveiling the Walk of Fame's 2,366th star. "I met him once and he was very kind to me. I never got a chance to tell him what I thought, that he was my hero."

Durning's more than 100 movie credits include "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," "Tootsie," "Dog Day Afternoon," "To Be or Not To Be," "The Sting" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

A who's who of actors joined him at the ceremony on Hollywood Boulevard, including Ed Begley Jr., Jon Voight, Angie Dickinson, Joe Mantegna, Gary Sinise, Elliott Gould, Lee Purcell and Doris Roberts.

"I never thought this would happen," Durning told the AP. "This is one of the secret awards I wanted. I was hoping this would happen in my lifetime and it did."

Born in Highland Falls, N.Y., Durning said he was 17 when he went to war, along with his three brothers.

"They dropped down the age (to enlist) to 18. I signed my mother's name and she was not happy about that," he said.

During the war, Durning was seriously wounded as a member of the first wave of soldiers to land on Omaha Beach during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. He was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and was one of a few survivors of the attack on American POWs at Malmedy, Belgium. Durning was honored with three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star.

AP

Actor Charles Durning poses during ceremonies honoring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Thursday July 31, 2008 in Los Angeles.

J.K. Rowling fairy tales to be sold for charity

LONDON (AP)—News alert for Harry Potter fans: A book of wizard fairy tales written and illustrated by J.K. Rowling is to be published for charity.

A British charity said Thursday it hopes to raise 4 million pounds ($8 million) through sales of "The Tales of Beedle the Bard." Rowling co-founded The Children's High Level Group charity, which supports institutionalized children. She has signed over her royalties.

The book is a collection of five wizarding tales referred to in Rowling's Potter saga. It was initially produced in an edition of seven handwritten copies. Six were given away by Rowling as gifts, and one was bought by retailer Amazon at an auction in December for almost 2 million pounds ($4 million).

Rowling said the new edition would include her illustrations and introduction, the stories themselves and commentaries ostensibly by Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of the fictional Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, "which appear by generous permission of the Hogwarts Headmasters' Archive."

The book will be published Dec. 4 by Bloomsbury in Britain and Scholastic in the United States. Amazon also plans a leather-bound collectors' edition priced at 50 pounds ($100).

Rowling, whose Harry Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies and been translated into 64 languages, wrote the Beedle tales after finishing "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the seventh and final work in the series last year.

She has described "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" as a distillation of the themes found in the Harry Potter books, calling it her goodbye to a world she lived in for 17 years.

'Work for Diddy' premieres as Combs' newest series

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Combs aims to conquer the airwaves.

His latest series, "I Want to Work for Diddy," premieres 9 p.m. EDT Monday on VH1, adding to a pair of Combs-produced reality shows on sister network MTV - "Run's House" and "Making the Band," which returns Aug. 13.

"It's all part of my strategic plan to take over TV: Diddy TV," he said by phone between meetings Thursday.

The new show arose from his need for a personal assistant, and a realization that conventional recruitment methods weren't finding the suitable replacement.

He put out the word through the media that he was welcoming candidates. Then he created a competition-style TV series for choosing a winner from 13 finalists vying for the job.

"But the show isn't about just seeing if I could find someone to work for me. It's about people chasing their dreams," he said. "I don't say it in a cocky way, but I take pride in being one of the best at doing what I do," which, of course, encompasses a multi-pronged entertainment empire.

Combs sees himself serving as an inspiration, particularly for young African Americans, "to show them that they can do more things than shoot basketball or rap."

On the series, a panel of judges makes the initial eliminations, Combs said, with him entering the picture toward the finish.

The candidates "had to fight to get to me," he explained. "To get to me is like getting to the Wizard of Oz. They had to prove themselves. They had to walk down the yellow-brick road."

"I Want to Work for Diddy," which he said has wrapped production, may sound a bit like Donald Trump's "The Apprentice." That's OK with Combs.

"My show has a whole different style and a whole different energy," he noted. "But if 'The Apprentice' helped to open up the door for this show, then so be it."

And while he called Trump a friend and business giant, he didn't hesitate when asked who would be more fun to work for.

"Oh, definitely, me," Combs said with a laugh.

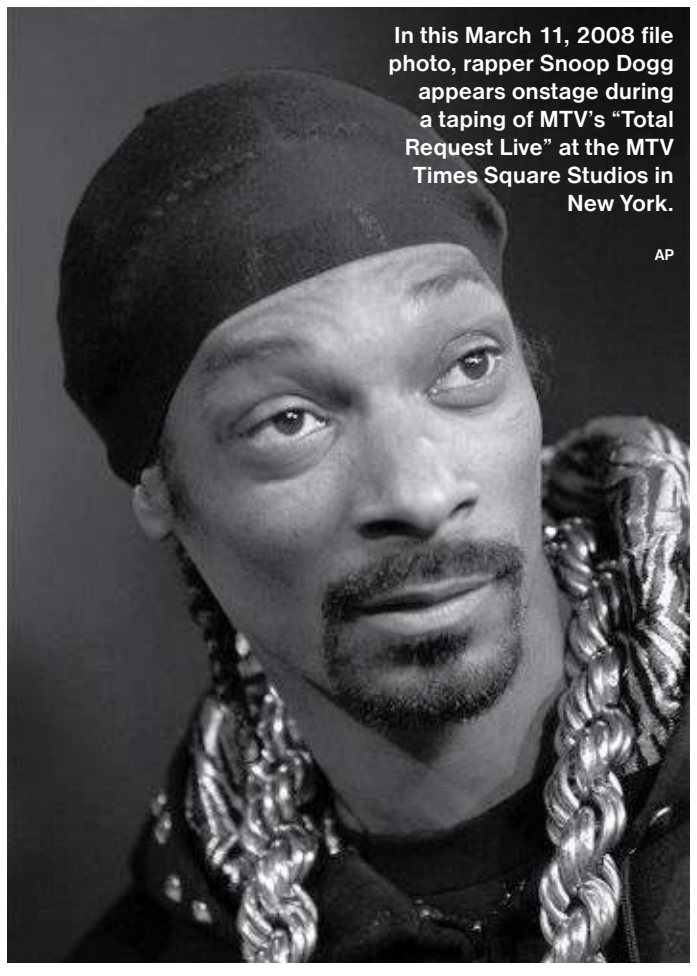
Snoop Dogg tour bus pulled over; 2 arrested

DALLAS (AP)—A tour bus carrying hip-hop artist Snoop Dogg was pulled over and two people were arrested on marijuana possession charges Thursday a few hours before a concert in Dallas, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety said.

DPS spokesman Charlie Morgan said members of a commercial vehicle inspection team pulled the bus over on Interstate 45 in Corsicana because the vehicle had an expired registration sticker. Troopers searched the bus for drugs after they said they smelled marijuana and found two ounces of the drug, he said.

Ethan Calhoun, 27, and Kevin Barkey, 26, were arrested on drug charges after admitting the drugs belonged to them, Morgan told The Associated Press. Both men were taken to the Navarro County Jail and face fines of up to $2,000 and six months in jail if convicted, Morgan said. Bond was set at $1,500 each.

The Corsicana Daily Sun reported the men appeared before a justice of the peace and were released after posting bond.



In this March 11, 2008 file photo, rapper Snoop Dogg appears onstage during a taping of MTV's "Total Request Live" at the MTV Times Square Studios in New York.

AP

Spider found in Calif. becomes Colbert's namesake

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A trapdoor spider species found along the coast of California last year is the new eight-legged tribute to Stephen Colbert.

How will the faux conservative talk show host take this news? Viewers of the Comedy Central show "The Colbert Report" will find out Wednesday when East Carolina University biologist Jason Bond appears as a guest.

Bond specializes in spiders and millipedes. He and students study both new and known species and provide names for the new ones.

Colbert's namesake is Aptostichus (ap-TAS'-tih-kus) stephencolberti. Because Colbert doesn't pronounce the "t" in his last name, it will also be silent in the spider's name.

Colbert demanded that a spider species carry his name after learning that Bond named a spider for rocker Neil Young.

Elizabeth Taylor visits hospital, to return home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor was hospitalized for an undisclosed reason but was expected to return home soon, representatives for the Oscar-winning actress said Thursday.

A statement released by Dick Guttman, her Los Angeles-based publicist, did not say where Taylor was staying, nor did it specify what might have been ailing the 76-year-old actress.

"Ms. Taylor is fine," the statement read. "Her hospital visit was precautionary. She will be returning home shortly. At present, she is surrounded by family, friends and fabulous jewels."

Guttman said he had no further details. A person who answered a call placed to Taylor's home Thursday, who would not give her full name, said only that Taylor's condition was "nothing to worry about."

A number of health issues have dogged Taylor through the years, including congestive heart failure in 2004 that, compounded with spinal fractures and the effects of scoliosis, left her nearly bedridden. She's also battled ulcers, amoebic dysentery, bursitis, acute bronchitis, two serious bouts of pneumonia, drug and alcohol addiction and a benign brain tumor that was removed in 1997.

Taylor won Oscars for roles in "Butterfield 8" in 1960 and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" in 1966. She also won a special Oscar, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, mainly for her work as an AIDS activist, in 1993. She still lives in Bel-Air, a tony section of Los Angeles that's home to many of Hollywood's elite figures.

AP

In this Nov. 10, 2005 file photo, Dame Elizabeth Taylor poses at the British Film and Television Academy/Los Angeles Cunard Britannia Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Girl's impulse to cut herself returns with her depression

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been depressed for years, and at times I cut myself. My mother sent me to counseling, but it didn't help much.

For a while, I was more or less happy. I had my boyfriend, school wasn't too much of a problem, and I was having fun. But lately, I've felt really stressed and depressed, and I got back into my old habits.

Unfortunately, I cut myself in front of my boyfriend. He got mad and left. He said: "You act like a crazy person. You apologize, but you never change. You never mean anything you say. To heck with this!"

I seriously considered suicide. The urge was so strong it scared me, so I took my razors and threw them away. Then I called a friend who's having similar problems, and we talked. She helped me realize that maybe I hurt myself for attention or pity, and I can control acting like that. She said my boyfriend really loves me, and if I cut myself I'm cutting him -- and her. Later it occurred to me that I was a little mad at him, and maybe I do this to myself to get back at other people, too.

I don't want to lose anyone (myself included) over this stupid drama. I want to stop hurting everyone and deal with my feelings, whatever they are, in a healthier way. Psychologists haven't helped, but I need something to keep my head on straight. How can I change for good? How do I change my whole way of thinking? I know I need to—I just don't know how.

WANTS TO STOP IN DENVER

DEAR WANTS TO STOP: You are asking intelligent questions. To me, they indicate that you are ready to be completely honest and accept the help you so desperately need. When people hurt so badly inside that they inflict pain upon themselves to distract themselves, they need more help than a layperson can give them. It's time to consult a licensed medical professional.

I don't know why your sessions with the psychologist weren't helpful. Perhaps you weren't seeing the right person or you weren't ready. Now that you are, ask your doctor for a referral—preferably to someone with experience with cutters. You may need medication to help maintain your chemical balance, but it's important to talk out your need to hurt others by turning your anger on yourself. Once you fully understand it, you'll have a better chance of controlling the impulse.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old woman who needs advice on how to find female friends. My family moved a lot when I was a child. By the time we settled down, I was in high school and realized to my dismay that it was too late. The other girls already had friends and social groups and weren't looking for more.

The same was true when I went to college and met my roommates. I'm out of school now and haven't had a female friend in years. It can be very lonely. Where can I meet women my age who still want to make new friends?

FRIEND-CHALLENGED IN GLENDALE, CALIF.

DEAR FRIEND-CHALLENGED: Select an activity you enjoy—or think you would like to learn about —and pursue that interest. Some suggestions that come to mind would be to join a gym where you'll meet other young women, or special-interest groups such as cooking, sewing, knitting, quilting or scrapbooking. And, of course, there is always that old standby: volunteering for a charity or cause. You will always find interesting women involved in volunteer work. Give it a try.

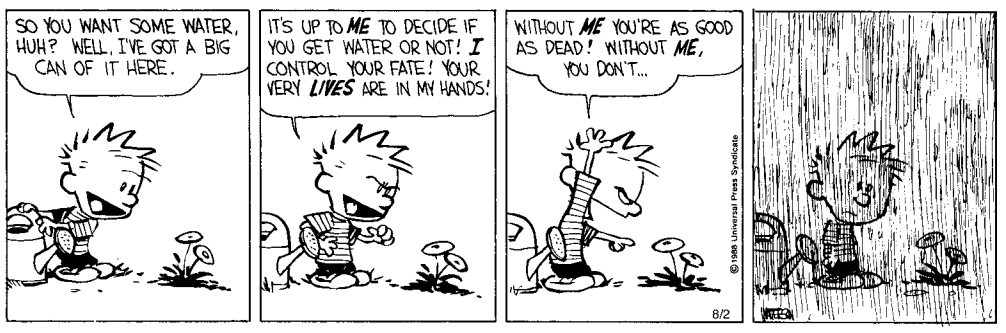
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO YOU WANT SOME WATER, HUH? WELL, I'VE GOT A BIG CAN OF IT HERE.
IT'S UP TO ME TO DECIDE IF YOU GET WATER OR NOT! I CONTROL YOUR FATE! YOUR VERY LIVES ARE IN MY HANDS!
WITHOUT ME YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD! WITHOUT ME, YOU DON'T...
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate
8/2

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON AND I MAKE A NICE COUPLE, DON'T YOU THINK, GARFIELD?
YES. SORT OF LIKE THE WAY ARGYLE SOCKS AND POLKA-DOTTED BOW TIES GO TOGETHER
I SENSE SARCASM IN THAT SMILE
YOU'RE GETTING TO KNOW ME
JIM DAVIS 8-2
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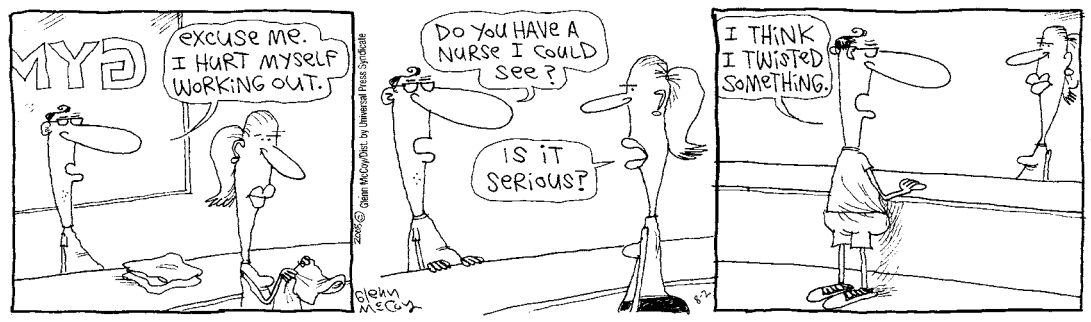
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MYD
excuse me. I HURT MYSELF WORKING OUT.
Do you HAVE A Nurse I could see?
IS IT Serious?
I THINK I TWISTED SOMETHING.
2008© Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
Glenn McCoy
8-2

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

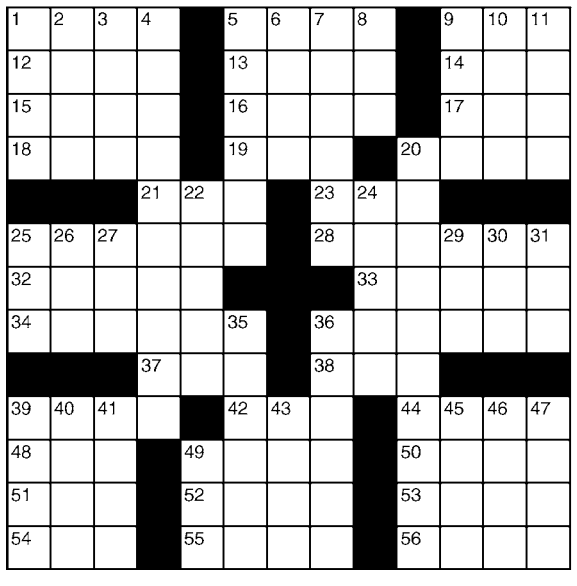
ACROSS
1 Moolah
5 Burglar's booty
9 Pouch
12 One side of the Urals
13 Sea eagle
14 Favorable voter
15 Sail support
16 Lascivious
17 Succor
18 Grand story
19 Scratch the surface
20 Showing signs of age
21 Weed whacker
23 Expert
25 Flaw
28 Spud
32 Join together
33 "Phooey!"
34 Record player?
36 Particular
37 "A Chorus Line" song
38 Volcanic output
39 Mop the deck
42 Kyoto cummerbund
44 "Sports-Center" airer
48 Playground game
49 Portent
50 Soothing ointment
51 Id counterpart
52 Sentry's command
53 Lawless portrayal
54 "Married ... With Children" mom
55 Siblingless
56 Basin accessory

DOWN
1 Arrived
2 Now, in a memo
3 Spaniard's assent
4 Malicious verbal attack
5 Biker's protection
6 Neighborhood
7 See what's inside
8 Started
9 Practice in the ring
10 Met meoldy
11 Buffalo Bill
20 Loses one's job
22 Lindbergh's view
24 Manages somehow
25 Flop
26 Compass pt.
27 "A pox upon thee!"
29 "Eureka!"
30 Skater Babilonia
31 Pussycat's partner
35 Royal attendant
36 Delicate
39 Dance lesson
40 Carry on
41 Quite enthusiastic
43 Watson's co-worker
45 Passel
46 Corn recipe
47 Approximate
49 "What have we here?"

Solution time: 27 mins.

D	A	M	■	G	E	N	E	■	E	Y	E	D
O	B	I	■	O	V	E	R	■	R	E	D	O
M	E	S	Q	U	I	T	E	■	S	T	I	R
■	■	F	U	R	L	■	■	L	A	I	T	Y
I	L	I	A	D	■	S	U	I	T	■	■	■
M	O	L	D	■	M	E	S	O	Z	O	I	C
A	G	E	■	H	A	V	E	N	■	U	N	O
M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S	■	S	T	A	B
■	■	■	T	W	I	N	■	B	U	R	N	S
S	H	O	O	K	■	■	I	O	L	A	■	■
H	E	R	R	■	M	E	S	H	U	G	G	E
U	R	G	E	■	A	L	T	A	■	E	N	D
T	O	Y	S	■	C	L	O	Y	■	D	U	O

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hallie Eisenberg, 16; Edward Furlong, 31; Mary-Louise Parker, 44; Peter O'Toole, 76

Happy Birthday: Put everything into perspective before you push your ideas into play but don't back away because of adversity or opposition. You have the strength and the wherewithal to beat the best, so move forward with confidence. Sudden financial changes can be expected if you don't stick to your budget. Offer your services to a group that needs a good leader. Your numbers are 2, 14, 19, 23, 31, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a look into your background and your roots. It will give you an idea of the lifestyle you would like to have. A couple of minor changes—to your vocation or a few of your relationships—and you'll start to see your life differently. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Ask yourself some serious questions about your social life, your friends and your future. Don't deny yourself the freedom you deserve. Avoid a dispute or risk regarding money or joint ventures. Play it safe financially. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't bend to someone else's demands. Added responsibilities for children or elders must be shared, not dumped on you. Speak up and delegate so you can enjoy your friends or lover and spend time pampering yourself. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A hobby or something you enjoy doing will help you relax and could turn into a prosperous little business for you. Now is a great time to be creative and believe in yourself. You have more talent than you realize. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make sure you aren't getting together with someone or doing something for the wrong reason. Emotional deception is present, so check your motives and those of the people you are dealing with. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Focus on home, family and what you can do to keep the peace. There will be lots of information being passed around, so stay in the loop. Don't let anyone hold you hostage emotionally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't be lazy when there is so much to do and so many people to connect with. Take part in events, activities, community gatherings or fundraisers. Speak with people who can help you find ways to make a profit. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You are better off enjoying the company of friends and family instead of your colleagues. If something is not going your way, back off and leave well enough alone for the time being. Changes at home may leave you feeling uncertain about your future. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let negative people stop you from having some fun. Changes are likely to occur in some of your relationships. Try not to let your anger lead to poor judgment, making a decision you cannot reverse. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A delicate matter can be resolved. Listen but don't give in to someone's manipulation. Stay calm and be firm about what you will and won't do. A problem will develop if debts aren't repaid. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Participate in something you find exhilarating and you will avoid conflict with people to whom you are emotionally attached. Love may be on the line if a discussion leads to ultimatums. Don't try to solve what cannot be resolved at this time. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Now is the time to mix business with pleasure. You will control the outcome of what you are trying to accomplish. You're onto something good, so don't take time off when every moment counts toward success. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a strong and aggressive individual who stands up for your beliefs. You are engaging, fun-loving, popular and charming.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8			
		5	6	4		1		
		6	2			9		
5						8	4	
	3			6			7	
	9	2						3
		8			4	5		
		7		2	1	4		
			7					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	9	6	4	5	1	7
4	5	6	7	3	1	8	2	9
9	7	1	2	5	8	3	6	4
8	1	9	3	2	5	4	7	6
6	2	5	4	9	7	1	3	8
7	4	3	8	1	6	9	5	2
3	6	4	5	7	9	2	8	1
1	9	2	6	8	3	7	4	5
5	8	7	1	4	2	6	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARIO BATALI — **Solution: 8 letters**

S	M	C	L	R	E	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N
A	A	P	U	L	E	P	I	C	E	R	P	O	A	R
S	S	L	E	L	T	T	A	B	C	A	E	E	O	V
C	T	O	T	O	I	N	E	O	S	N	N	A	W	L
U	E	N	G	R	D	N	M	T	I	A	D	I	O	S
I	R	D	(K)	(O)	(O)	(B)	A	W	R	I	T	E	R	T
S	D	O	R	C	I	C	M	R	S	T	A	E	K	N
I	O	N	L	N	A	E	E	H	Y	T	I	C	I	E
N	O	I	E	P	A	T	W	N	A	I	L	A	T	I
E	F	D	A	L	I	A	E	R	U	T	L	U	C	D
T	A	N	S	D	S	S	E	L	Y	T	S	O	H	E
A	N	A	E	H	T	N	A	R	U	A	T	S	E	R
E	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	L	L	I	B	N	G
R	D	R	A	Y	E	N	I	V	O	C	R	A	M	N
C	L	A	S	S	I	C	I	M	O	N	O	C	E	I

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American, Armandino, Battle, Bill, Book, Candor, Capanne, City, Classic, Clift, Combined, Create, Cuisine, Culinary, Culture, Dishwasher, Eats, Economic, Food, Host, Ingredients, Italian, Kitchen, London, Lupa, Marco, Master, Meals, Mediterranean, Pasta, Recipe, Reservation, Restaurant, Road, Roll, Salt, Style, Tool, Vineyard, Wine, Witty, Work, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Jerseys

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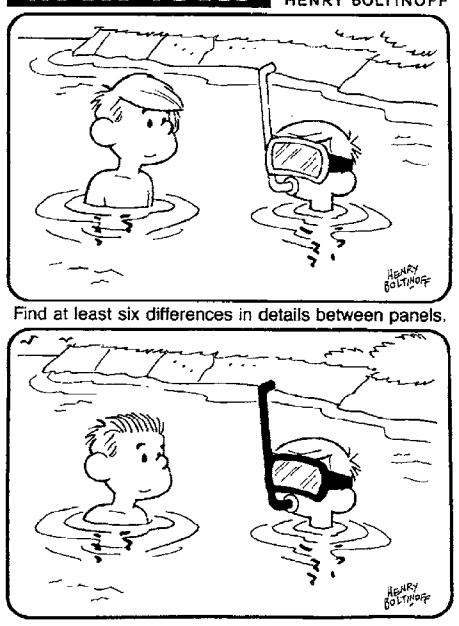
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Boy's hair is different. 2. Birds have been added. 3. Snorkel is different. 4. Shoreline is longer. 5. Bushes are different. 6. Boy on left is shorter.

Wishing Well®

3	2	8	4	5	4	2	4	2	4	7	5	2
A	B	I	D	C	O	I	U	G	B	B	H	G
7	2	8	7	2	7	8	4	5	2	6	3	8
E	E	N	R	R	E	T	T	E	P	B	C	U
4	7	6	3	4	7	8	4	7	8	7	8	6
S	A	E	T	A	S	I	R	O	T	N	I	F
3	8	3	4	8	3	6	3	5	8	7	2	7
B	O	O	E	N	L	L	D	E	I	A	A	B
3	8	2	3	4	5	6	2	6	4	5	4	5
L	S	Y	Y	R	R	E	C	X	E	U	M	P
4	7	4	6	7	5	6	4	8	5	4	2	6
O	L	V	I	E	Y	B	E	H	O	D	H	L
5	2	8	5	8	6	8	5	2	5	2	5	5
U	E	I	R	G	E	H	S	C	E	K	L	F

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

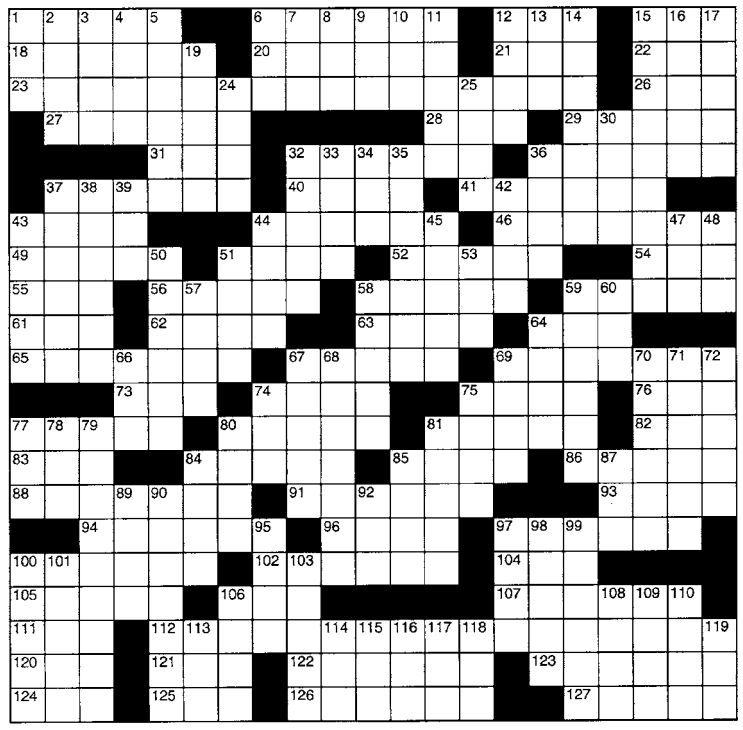
BRIEFLY STATED

ACROSS

1 Roofing material
6 Litigates
12 Director Peckinpah
15 Bull's babe
18 Florida eleven
20 40th president
21 Baudelaire's buddy
22 Nabokov novel
23 Mitch Miller hit
26 "Agnus —"
27 Throw a line to
28 She's a sheep date
29 Bakery display
31 — Aviv
32 Blazing
36 Most mammoth
37 Elegant
40 Pebbles' papa
41 — Leone
43 Black and white
44 Bing Crosby hit
46 Service member?
49 Tilden's opponent
51 Seize
52 Slip of the tongue
54 Tax shelter
55 Animated Olive
56 Proofreader's mark
58 Word with tea or pepper
59 Get more magazines
61 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"
62 Be — unto oneself
63 Tear to bits
64 Marry
65 Patti Page hit
67 Scold
69 Andrews Sisters hit
73 Tenor Slezak
74 Corporate VIP
75 Burlap fiber
76 Word on a pump
77 Supped in style
80 Pasta ingredient
81 Government group
82 Winter hazard
83 TV's "Scooby- —"
84 Too experienced
85 Flip
86 Sri —
88 Land mass
91 Wilbert Harrison hit
93 Doesn't come clean
94 Daze
96 — Haven, CT
97 Exhausted
100 Enigmatic sort
102 Lost
104 Essen exclamation
105 Couldn't stand
106 First zoo?
107 Concerto —
111 Bachelor's last words
112 Gladys Knight hit
120 New Deal agcy.
121 — later date
122 Used a ewer
123 Through the nose
124 Cartoon cry
125 — de guerre
126 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
127 Dutch artist Jan

DOWN

1 Cpl.'s superior
2 Bolger/Haley co-star
3 To — (perfectly)
4 Petite pooches
5 Builds
6 Paid player
7 Actor Ayres
8 Musical sensitivity
9 Past
10 Wagner's "— Rheingold"
11 Look like Hook?
12 Cash stash
13 Qty.
14 Blend
15 Mamas & Papas hit
16 "Golden Boy" dramatist
17 Dress part
19 Turns about
24 Portrait painter Peter
25 Is in debt
30 Taj town
32 G-sharp's keymate
33 Chow
34 Creepy Christopher
35 Stuck fast
36 Munich mister
37 Kindergarten item
38 Defeat
39 Affirmative vote
42 Sacred image
43 That's the spirit
44 Make tea
45 Worth or Papas
47 Prior to, to Prior
48 Damp and chilly
50 Cleaned a carp
51 Schwarzenegger's birthplace
53 Cabernet color
57 Voice type
58 It's run of the mill?
59 Nullify
60 Tokyo, once
64 Power unit
66 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
67 Stream
68 Earphones
69 Propel with a pole
70 Entertainer Kazan
71 Played soccer
72 Zones
74 Third degree?
75 Panel of peers
77 SHAEF commander
78 Letters of credit?
79 Johnny Horton hit
80 WWII unit
81 Dock of the bay
84 Put the whammy on
85 Galileo's birthplace
87 Heidi's hangout
89 Racer Luyendyk
90 Nocturnal visitor
92 Subway unit
95 Merit
97 It's a long story
98 Caustic
99 Conversation pieces?
100 Gleam
101 Clerical title
103 Excludes
106 Smith or Sandler
108 ER exclamation
109 Painful
110 Eye appreciatively
113 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
114 Sticky stuff
115 Savage sort
116 La-la lead-in
117 Asian holiday
118 Nutritional abbr.
119 Writer Rand



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MEASUREMENTS: How long is a stade, an early Greek measurement?
2. MOVIES: What movie featured the Bing Crosby song "Swinging on a Star"?
3. ENVIRONMENT: What is the largest World Heritage Area designated for protection?
4. GAMES: In parcheesi, what number do you have to roll to move a piece to its starting position?
5. TELEVISION: What TV series showed network television's first interracial kiss?
6. MEDICAL: What common food has been traditionally used as an ointment for wounds?
7. COMICS: What breed of dog is Charlie Brown's Snoopy?
8. MUSIC: What instrument did musician Pablo Cassals play?
9. BIBLE: How old was David when he became king of Israel?
10. LITERATURE: What was the pseudonym of Baroness Karen Blixen?

Answers

1. About 207 yards, or the length of a stadium
2. "Going My Way"
3. Great Barrier Reef
4. Five
5. "Star Trek"
6. Honey
7. Beagle
8. Cello
9. About 30 years old
10. Isak Dinesen, "Out of Africa"

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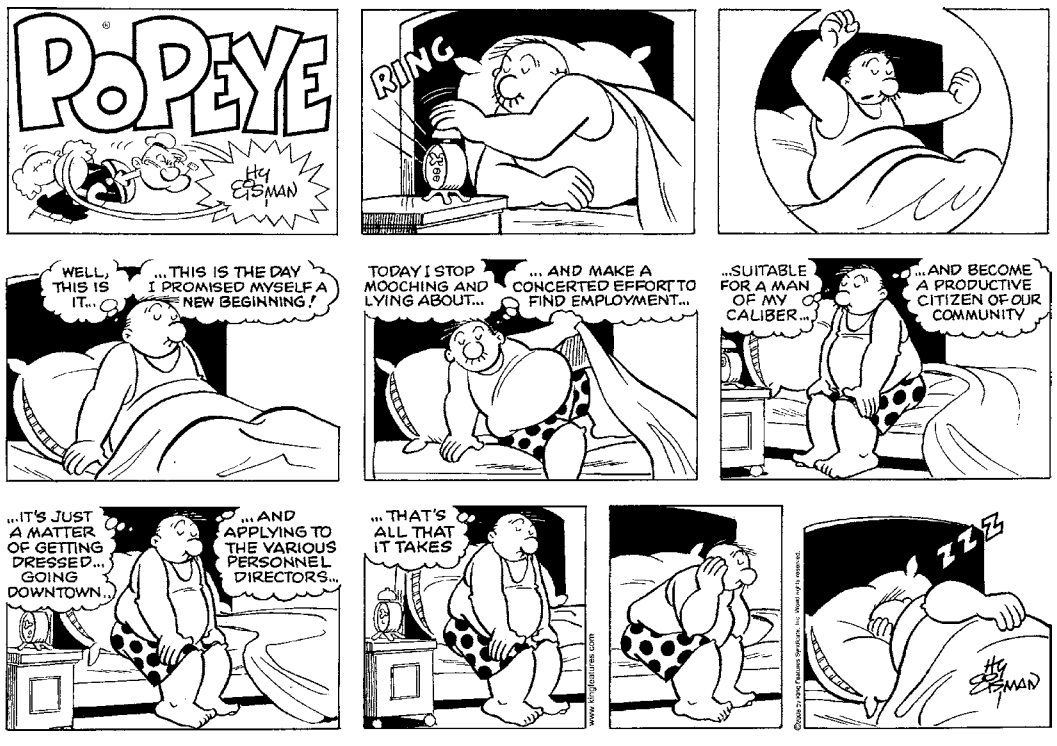
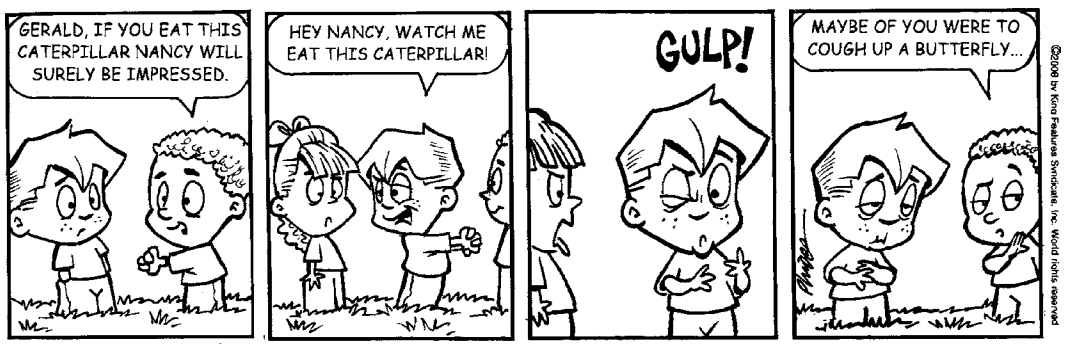
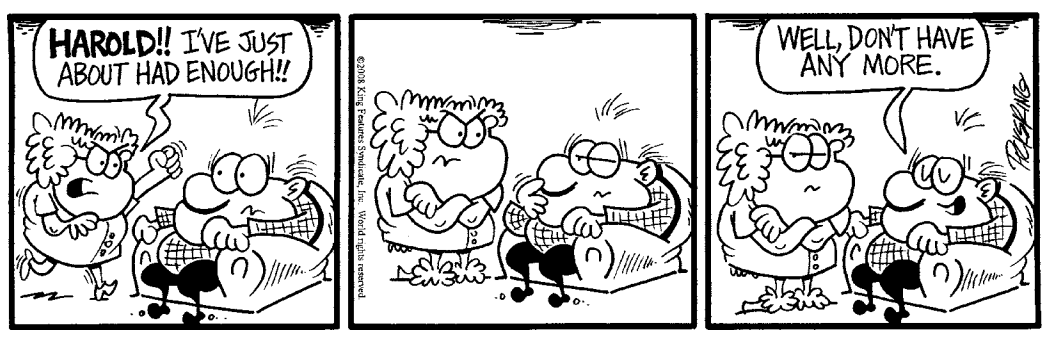
Saturday's Answers

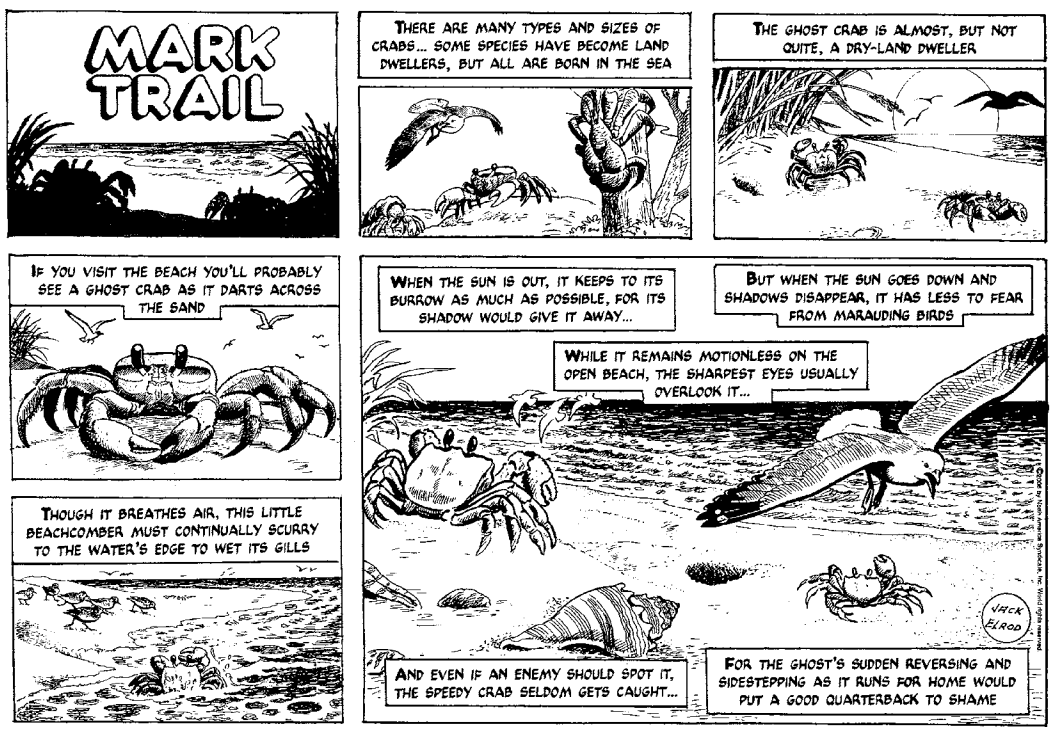

POPEYE
HY EISMAN
RING
WELL, THIS IS IT... ...THIS IS THE DAY I PROMISED MYSELF A NEW BEGINNING!
TODAY I STOP MOOCHING AND LYING ABOUT... ... AND MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO FIND EMPLOYMENT...
...SUITABLE FOR A MAN OF MY CALIBER... ...AND BECOME A PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN OF OUR COMMUNITY
...IT'S JUST A MATTER OF GETTING DRESSED... GOING DOWNTOWN... ...AND APPLYING TO THE VARIOUS PERSONNEL DIRECTORS...
... THAT'S ALL THAT IT TAKES
www.kingfeatures.com

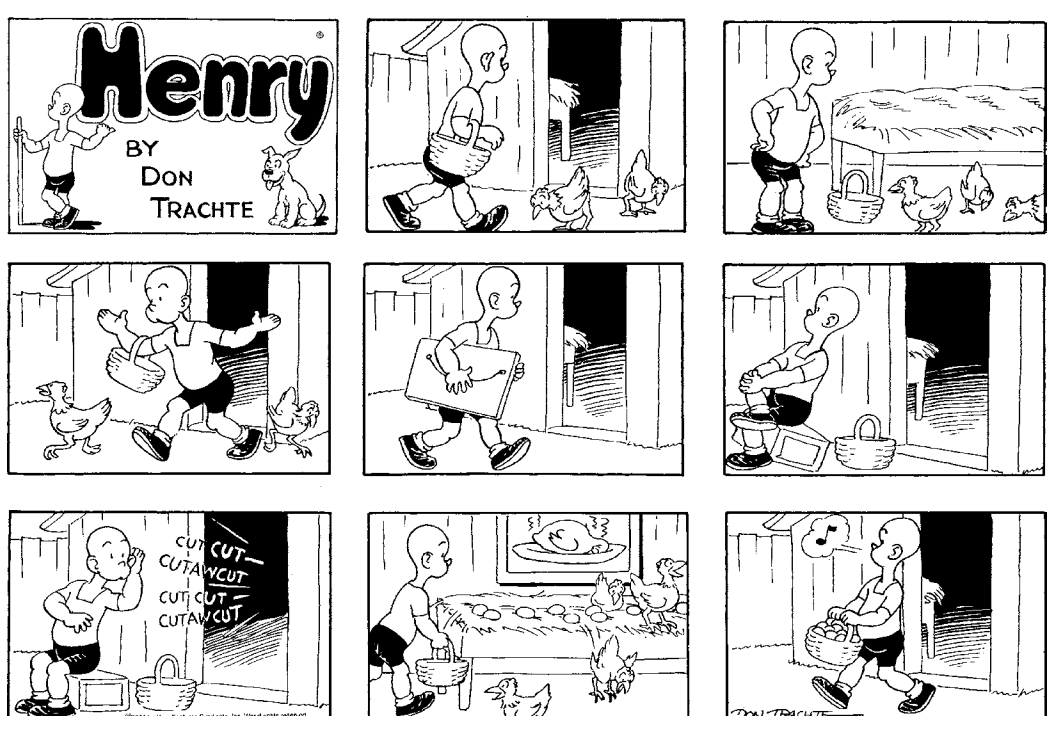
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps


GERALD, IF YOU EAT THIS CATERPILLAR NANCY WILL SURELY BE IMPRESSED.
HEY NANCY, WATCH ME EAT THIS CATERPILLAR!
GULP!
MAYBE OF YOU WERE TO COUGH UP A BUTTERFLY...

The Spats by Jeff Pickering




MARK TRAIL
THERE ARE MANY TYPES AND SIZES OF CRABS... SOME SPECIES HAVE BECOME LAND DWELLERS, BUT ALL ARE BORN IN THE SEA
THE GHOST CRAB IS ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE, A DRY-LAND DWELLER
IF YOU VISIT THE BEACH YOU'LL PROBABLY SEE A GHOST CRAB AS IT DARTS ACROSS THE SAND
WHEN THE SUN IS OUT, IT KEEPS TO ITS BURROW AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, FOR ITS SHADOW WOULD GIVE IT AWAY...
BUT WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN AND SHADOWS DISAPPEAR, IT HAS LESS TO FEAR FROM MARAUDING BIRDS
WHILE IT REMAINS MOTIONLESS ON THE OPEN BEACH, THE SHARPEST EYES USUALLY OVERLOOK IT...
THOUGH IT BREATHES AIR, THIS LITTLE BEACHCOMBER MUST CONTINUALLY SCURRY TO THE WATER'S EDGE TO WET ITS GILLS
AND EVEN IF AN ENEMY SHOULD SPOT IT, THE SPEEDY CRAB SELDOM GETS CAUGHT...
FOR THE GHOST'S SUDDEN REVERSING AND SIDESTEPPING AS IT RUNS FOR HOME WOULD PUT A GOOD QUARTERBACK TO SHAME
JACK ELROD



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TUNNEL

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Must Sell!
JOHNSON 30HP OUTBOARD
322-1759 or 286-7132
Runs great **$975** OBO

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Navy Hill Apartments for rent. Spacious 2-bedroom units with beautiful view of Saipan. Featuring a private view balcony, fully furnished, FREE wireless DSL, 24-hour water, night-time security, typhoon shutters, laundry area, on-call maintenance staff & BACK-UP GENERATOR. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Need Full-Time Live-In Nanny/Housekeeper in Los Angeles, California. Please contact John @ (671) 637-7775 or email JohnC1010@gmail.com

WHATZIT Solution: There's light at the end of the tunnel

Hafa Adai!
SUNDAY
Saipan Trib
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 195
JULY 13, 2008
Bell begins practice run for swim around
FHB warns Guam customers of phishing
www.saipantribune.com
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.
INSIDE
Green Doghouse
If you work well with wood and want to try a green roof, why not start by building one for your dog?
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING...
Page 11
weekend
SUPER SAVINGS
promo
Ads placed on Saturday or Sunday for the month of August 2008 will receive a
30% Discount
on Display Ad Rates Only
No discount on Color Rates. No contract plan necessary
Advertise in the only local weekend publication!
Weekend circulation of 1800 copies on Saturdays and1600 copies on Sundays.
Distributed throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota.
Advertise now in the Saipan Tribune to capture the weekend shoppers!
Call our Sales Department at 235-2440/8747/6397 for more information

Manny Ramirez to LA, Bay to BoSox

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a nasty split with the Boston Red Sox, Manny Ramirez is Hollywood-bound. The Los Angeles Dodgers acquired the enigmatic slugger Thursday, giving up two minor leaguers in a startling, three-team trade that sent outfielder Jason Bay from Pittsburgh to Boston.

AP

Michael Aronson, age 13, holds up a Dodgers jersey with a home made name tag on it for newly acquired Manny Ramirez during the Los Angeles Dodgers' Major League Baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Thursday, July 31, 2008, in Los Angeles.

The Dodgers also received cash considerations, general manager Ned Colletti said, in a deal that was completed just before the 4 p.m. EDT deadline for making trades without waivers.

The Red Sox will pay the estimated $7 million owed to Ramirez through the end of the season, at which time he can become a free agent. Ramirez was in the final guaranteed year of an eight-year, $160 million contract, and the Red Sox held $20 million options for the next two seasons.

As part of the trade, the club options were eliminated.

So when all was said and done, the Dodgers picked up a summer rental they hope will give them a shot at improving upon a woeful postseason track record in the past 20 years. Since winning the 1988 World Series, they've made just four playoff appearances and won only one postseason game.

"We figured we had to do it," Colletti said before the Dodgers opened a four-game series against the Arizona Diamondbacks in a matchup of the NL West's top teams. "There was obviously a point in time that you have to make a major decision. We did and we were glad we did it. Hopefully it pays dividends. We're confident we've got one of the best hitters in baseball coming in here—one of the best hitters of his generation from the right side.

"He's a champion, he's a winner, and we really couldn't be happier with trying to make the club better at this point in time than to do this. We wanted this player at least for the next two months, and hopefully longer. So we're willing to take the chance and go with this guy."

In return, the Red Sox got the 29-year-old Bay, a two-time All-Star who was hitting .282 with 22 home runs and 64 RBIs for Pittsburgh. Tampa Bay pursued Bay before he wound up with the Red Sox, who trail the first-place Rays by three games in the AL East.

The last-place Pirates, looking for young talent, received reliever Craig Hansen and outfielder Brandon Moss from Boston and third baseman Andy LaRoche and pitcher Bryan Morris from the Dodgers. LaRoche, Moss and Hansen will join Pittsburgh, while Morris will go to Class A Hickory.

After fans throw hats and balls onto field, Twins rally to beat White Sox

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Jason Kubel's three-run homer highlighted an unruly seventh inning in the Minnesota Twin's 10-6 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

The game was stopped for several minutes when fans threw hats and baseballs onto the turf and had the White Sox running for the shelter of the dugout.

Twins manager Ron Gardenhire punted his hat over his head after third base umpire Marty Foster tossed him in the seventh for arguing a called strike on Denard Span, and fans responded by tossing dozens of hats, and several baseballs, onto the field.

White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen quickly pulled his players off the field, and the Metrodome public address announcer warned the announced crowd of 31,493 that the Twins were risking a forfeit if the behavior continued.

The fans settled down after about five minutes, and the Twins had a four-run inning to erase a 4-3 deficit. Joe Mauer tied the game with an RBI single and Kubel followed with his homer off Octavio Dotel for a 7-4 lead.

Jermaine Dye hit a two-run homer off Matt Guerrier in the eighth, but the Twins tacked on three runs in the bottom of the inning.

Angels 12, Yankees 6

At New York, Torii Hunter, Vladimir Guerrero and Juan Rivera hit three-run homers as Los Angeles downed New York.

Coming off a three-game sweep at Boston in which they scored 22 runs, the Angels hit three three-run homers in a game for the first time in 30 years. Los Angeles improved baseball's best record to 68-40 with its 11th victory in 13 games since the All-Star break.

Jon Garland (10-6) coasted to his 10th win and Garret Anderson had four hits for the second consecutive night.

Ivan Rodriguez received a boisterous ovation in his first at-bat for New York. The 14-time All-Star catcher arrived in New York just hours after being acquired from Detroit on Wednesday. He went 1-for-3.

Indians 9, Tigers 4

At Cleveland, Fausto Carmona won for the first time since May 12, and Grady Sizemore had four RBIs to lead Cleveland past Detroit.

Carmona (5-3) made his second start after spending two months on the disabled list with a hip injury. He was rocked for nine runs in 2 1-3 innings when he rejoined the rotation last week.

A 19-game winner last season, Carmona was charged with two runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. The right-hander hadn't won since shutting out Toronto nearly three months ago.

Reliever Rafael Perez got an inning-ending double play in the seventh and struck out the side in the eighth.

Mariners 8, Rangers 5

At Arlington, Texas, Knuckleballer R.A. Dickey limited his former team to two runs and six hits pitching into the eighth inning, and Adrian Beltre homered for Seattle.

Dickey (3-6) had lost his previous three decisions, but was in control against a lineup that entered the game with a team batting average of .282, tops in the majors. He struck out two and walked one in 7 2-3 innings.

The 33-year-old right-hander was with Texas for parts of five seasons.

Ichiro Suzuki tripled and doubled for the Mariners, who had lost nine of their previous 11 and seven of the last nine against the Rangers.

Phillies 8, Nationals 4

At Washington, Jimmy Rollins and Jayson Werth homered, and Philadelphia stretched its winning streak to five games with a victory over Washington.

The first-place Phillies completed a three-game sweep of the injury-riddled Nationals and took a one-game lead over idle New York in the National League East.

Washington has lost nine straight, tying this season's longest streak and the worst skid since the Nationals moved from Montreal in 2005.

Rollins was 2-for-4 with a walk and three RBIs.

Werth's solo homer and Rollins' RBI groundout helped the Phillies go up 3-0 in the second. Rollins hit a two-run homer in the fourth to give Philadelphia a 5-2 lead.

Cubs 11, Brewers 4

At Milwaukee, Jim Edmonds hit two homers, including a grand slam, and Chicago finished off a four-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Just five days ago, the Cubs and Brewers were tied atop the NL Central. After the sweep, the Brewers have lost five straight and are five games behind Chicago, which has won five straight.

Rich Harden (1-1) picked up his first NL win, giving up a run and six hits in seven innings with nine strikeouts.

Alfonso Soriano and Kosuke Fukudome homered for the Cubs, who swept four games from the Brewers for the first time since 2003.

Braves 9, Cardinals 4

At Atlanta, rookie Clint Sammons homered and drove in three runs for Atlanta, which downed St. Louis to snap a five-game losing streak.

Sammons, who was called up from the minors on Monday, picked up his first career RBI in the fourth, singling in a run that tied the game at 3.

Two innings later, he put the Braves ahead to stay with his first homer, a two-run shot that put the Braves ahead for good. Sammons added another hit in the eighth and scored the Braves' final run.

Marlins 12, Rockies 2

At Miami, Anibal Sanchez won his first start in 15 months, and Hanley Ramirez and Jorge Cantu hit home runs as Florida trounced Colorado.

Sanchez allowed two runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings to win in his first start since May 2007. A shoulder injury that required surgery last June sidelined him for most of last season, after he won 10 games, including a no-hitter, as a rookie in 2006.

Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa (5-6) retired just five batters, his shortest outing of the season. He left after allowing six runs in the second, including two on walks with the bases loaded.

Diamondbacks 2, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Brandon Webb scattered six hits in eight innings to win his major league-leading 15th game, and Arizona extended its lead over Los Angeles to two games in the NL West.

Manny Ramirez, acquired by the Dodgers from Boston earlier Thursday, is expected to make his Los Angeles debut Friday night against Arizona's Randy Johnson in the second game of a four-game series.

Webb (15-4) allowed one run, walked one and struck out six in outpitching Derek Lowe and continuing his domination of the Dodgers. The 2006 NL Cy Young Award winner is 8-0 in his last nine starts against Los Angeles, allowing nine runs in 71 innings.

Brandon Lyon worked a scoreless ninth for his 23rd save.

Griffey traded from Reds to White Sox

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ken Griffey Jr. is leaving home to get back in a pennant race. The Chicago White Sox acquired Griffey from the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday, hoping the 38-year-old outfielder can help them hold onto their slim lead in the AL Central.

The Reds sent Griffey and cash to Chicago for reliever Nick Masset and Triple-A second baseman Danny Richar. The deal was announced a half-hour before the 4 p.m. EDT deadline to make trades without waivers.

Griffey, who hit his 600th home run this season, agreed to the trade earlier in the day. Because of the cash transaction involved, the deal did not become official until the commissioner's office approved it.

White Sox general manager Kenny Williams coveted Griffey for several years. Once one of baseball's premier players, Griffey has never reached the World Series and has not even been in the playoffs since 1997 with Seattle.

"One of the things that factored into this was a guy who has had a great career but has not won a championship and how motivated he's going to be to get on that stage," Williams said. "That is a factor and will always be a factor for me."

Now older, it's uncertain how much Griffey has left in his oft-injured body—it's been a long while since he was voted to the All-Century team.

Griffey played right field the last two seasons, but will return to center when he joins the White Sox on Friday for the start of a series in Kansas City. Manager Ozzie Guillen and the White Sox led Minnesota by 1 1/2 games when the trade was made.

"When I talked to Junior, he was very honest," Williams said. "He said, 'Well, I've got to tell you, I don't know that you're going to see the guy from Seattle.' I said, 'We're not looking for that guy from Seattle. What we're looking for is for you to use your instincts.'"

Griffey takes over for Nick Swisher, who moves to first base in place of the slumping Paul Konerko. Swisher also will give up his No. 30 to Griffey, who wore it during his earliest years in Cincinnati.

"I just think there's a lot of added things he can bring," Swisher said. "I mean, I had posters of that guy on my wall growing up. So I think it's going to be an awesome thing for all of us."

Reds general manager Walt Jocketty was surprised when the White Sox approached him on Wednesday. Griffey also was caught off-guard.

"I think he was just a little bit surprised, maybe, but I think he thought about it and said he wanted to talk to his family about it," Jocketty said. "I think he agreed it's a very good opportunity for him, and the club obviously wanted him and pursued him and came after him. That's got to be a good feeling for him, I guess."

Agent: Favre ready for camp media frenzy

AP

Shane Keddell, center, of Appleton, Wis., raises his arm and starts a "bring Brett back" chant, referring to NFL football quarterback Brett Favre, inside the Lambeau Field Atrium on Thursday, July 24, 2008, during the annual Green Bay Packers shareholders meeting in Green Bay, Wis.

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—Brett Favre's agent says the three-time MVP understands he would be walking into a media frenzy by showing up for the Green Bay Packers' training camp, but he's willing to deal with that rather than have retirement forced on him.

"He's prepared to deal with it," James "Bus" Cook told The Associated Press on Thursday. "He's ready to go back, but he can't go back until the commissioner reinstates him."

That didn't happen Thursday. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is giving the Packers and Favre at least one more day to resolve their standoff before granting the quarterback his reinstatement.

Meanwhile, a pair of potential solutions reportedly were emerging late Thursday night.

The Wisconsin State Journal and ESPN reported that Favre was considering a 10-year, $20 million marketing and licensing deal offer from the Packers—and staying retired. And the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported the Packers and Cook were in "serious" discussions with the New York Jets about a trade.

The State Journal report said the Packers' deal, which was reported by multiple media outlets after team president and CEO Mark Murphy met with Favre and Cook in Mississippi on Wednesday, went on the table soon after Favre retired in March and wasn't a last-ditch attempt to pay Favre to stay away from training camp.

General manager Ted Thompson and other Packers officials did not immediately return telephone messages left by The Associated Press. The Packers did not have a public practice or media availability Thursday.

"The Packers and Brett Favre are continuing their discussions," league officials said in a statement. "The commissioner preferred to let those discussions continue rather than act on the reinstatement petition today."

Once Favre is reinstated, the Packers will have 24 hours to decide whether to cut him or restore him to their active roster. By not acting Thursday, Goodell decreased the chances Favre would be present at Packers training camp Friday.

Cook said Favre still wants to be released, something the Packers have ruled out.

"If he was given his release, there's no guarantee he'd go anywhere to play," Cook said. "However, he'd have the freedom to choose if he should decide to play."

Favre also could be traded—apparently even to a division rival.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Thursday that Packers officials have had internal discussions about trading Favre to the Minnesota Vikings or Chicago Bears as a "last resort" to resolve the smoldering controversy.

"That's news to me," Vikings coach Brad Childress said Thursday. "Whatever you're hearing, I'm not hearing."

Thompson said Monday that he would not consider trading Favre to one of Green Bay's NFC North division rivals.

Favre, who retired in March, filed a letter on Tuesday requesting reinstatement from Goodell. The commissioner has waited to approve the request in hopes that Favre and the Packers could work out a resolution.

But that hasn't happened yet, even after Murphy's trip to Mississippi. The Packers hold Favre's rights until his current contract expires after the 2010 season.

It is widely believed Favre would be willing to play for the Vikings. In filing tampering charges with the NFL against the Vikings two weeks ago, Packers officials expressed a belief that Vikings coaches had inappropriate contact with Favre—and interest from the Vikings was the main reason behind Favre's last-minute desire to return.

Favre isn't believed to have much interest in playing for Chicago, but the most recent developments in the Favre saga got a reaction in Bears training camp.

"I really don't know anything about (the reports)," Bears offensive coordinator Ron Turner said. "I went back to the room after meetings, heard it, saw it, just kind of chuckled because I have no idea where it came from. I have no idea where those stories come from."

Turner said he didn't want to talk about Favre because the Bears feel good about quarterbacks Rex Grossman and Kyle Orton. But Turner acknowledged that the smoldering controversy is hard to ignore.

"I am amazed by it," Turner said. "You don't know where it comes from. It seems like it's something different everyday."

Bears cornerback Nathan Vasher was surprised to hear that the Packers might consider trading Favre within the division.

"I had no clue," Vasher said. "I thought that would be something they wouldn't do or try to stay away from. As far as here, I like the guys we have behind center right now in Kyle and Rex, and I think those guys can definitely take us through."

Goosen takes the lead at a tamer Firestone South

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Retief Goosen, a late arrival and an early starter, took advantage of a Firestone South course that played long and short on his way to a 4-under 66 that gave him a one-shot lead in the Bridgestone Invitational on Thursday.

One year after Tiger Woods was the only player to break par, Goosen and 32 other players in the 80-man field met only minor resistance on a balmy afternoon at this World Golf Championship.

Vijay Singh and former Masters champion Zach Johnson were among those at 67, while Steve Stricker was headed for the outright lead until running into trouble off the tee late in his round, losing three shots in two holes and joining another large group at 68.

The length came from rain earlier in the week that softened Firestone and made it play every bit of its 7,400 yards. Tim Clark, a medium hitter who was at 67, hit his hybrid so often he was amazed it had any grooves left.

And the short? That would be the rough.

It was so deep last year that players often had trouble just getting it back to the fairway, and there were shots that squirted sideways leading to several big numbers. But the rough is only about 2 inches this year, at least giving players a chance.

"Last year, the rough here was almost out of control. This year, the rough is very average and it's part of an experiment they're doing," PGA Tour policy board member Stewart Cink said. "They're trying to see if the rough height has any effect on scoring."

Based on Thursday's scoring, there's no need to send the data to MIT.

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL

Goosen, who arrived Wednesday at the tournament in time for rain to wash out his scheduled practice round, was in the second group out and didn't find any trouble until he missed the par-3 15th green to the left and made his only bogey. It was another step in the right direction for the two-time U.S. Open champion, who has not had a top 10 on U.S. soil since he tied for second in the World Golf Championship at Doral in March.

"The course is playing tough," Goosen said through a European Tour official after declining to speak to reporters. "I'm not saying it's playing easy, but the rough is not nearly as thick as it was last year."

Phil Mickelson, cryptic in his criticism of the high rough at the Memorial two months ago, finished with a birdie on the 18th after scrambling out of the trees and shot 68. He said Firestone has become one of his favorite courses this year.

"You fall in love with a golf course when you have a setup that's as wonderful as this," Mickelson said. "The greens are fast, the pin placements are great, the rough is challenging but fair and it lets you hit some recovery shots. This year, Firestone is one of my favorite golf courses that we have on tour."

It allowed for one amazing recovery for Mickelson. He was left of the trees on the 18th, 169 yards away, contemplating whether to hit a 9-iron, wedge or a lob wedge over the trees. He settled on a 4-iron under the trees to 15 feet for an unlikely birdie.

"It was risky, but it paid off," Mickelson said.

British Open champion Padraig Harrington was in the group at 69 that included Sergio Garcia.

Not everyone took advantage, the most noteworthy being Kenny Perry.

The hottest player on the PGA Tour—at least those still playing not recovering from knee surgery—Perry came to this WGC event having won three times in his last six starts. But he struggled to hit fairways and make putts, and he wound up with a 74.

Masters champion Trevor Immelman opened with a 75, while Woody Austin didn't help his Ryder Cup cause with a 71. Austin is ninth in the U.S. standings with two tournaments left to earn one of eight automatic spots.

Goosen hasn't won since the Qatar Masters in January 2007, which moved him up to No. 6 in the world. He has fallen to No. 39 as he struggles to put together his swing, and he headed home to Florida from the Canadian Open to work with his coach.

He showed signs at the U.S. Open when he had two sub-70 rounds and tied for 14th, and at the British Open, where he was in contention going into the weekend. But he has never fared well at Firestone, recording only one top 10 in six appearances.

It helps not having to deal with Woods, a six-time winner on this track.

"The guy that's won here every year is not here, and all the losers are still here," Goosen said. "It's nice."

Woods' absence was obvious in other ways.

The course was virtually empty, with most of the traffic following Mickelson and Ernie Els (69). Stricker hit a 5-iron over the bunker on No. 4 to 6 feet for birdie that put him at 5 under, and all of 17 fans followed him to the next hole. Some of the concession stands had no visitors, about like a Montreal Expos game before they moved to Washington.

Woods, who finished at 8-under 272 for an eight-shot victory, might not have recognized the place. Some felt the Bridgestone Invitational last year was even tougher than the PGA Championship the following week at Southern Hills.

That might not be the case this year, although it was still a stern test.

"It's just a good course," Stricker said. "It's got length, it's got rough, it's got tough greens. So you need to be on your game."

July Budweiser bowling tomorrow and Monday

The July Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes as well as the July Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament takes place tomorrow and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

The two-day Budweiser July King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held in Aug. 3 and 4.

Sunday's roll-off would begin as early as 3pm, while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for SBA members with participants limited to the first 72 entries for each day.

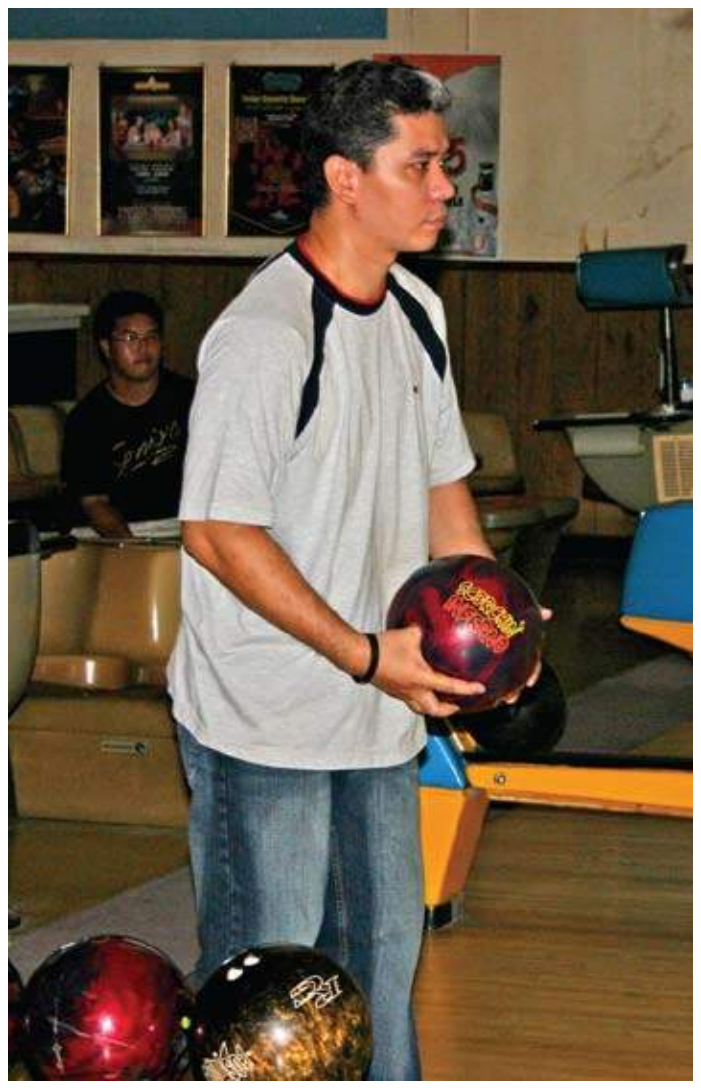
Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the $15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the $15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed $100 in prize money but it could go up to as much $150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old, not bowling in any leagues or averaging less than 170 in any league) will only bowl on Sunday for the Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes. Entry fee is $10.

After being sponsor-less for the whole of 2007, the Saipan Bowling Association's monthly King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament as well as its season-ending bowlfest has secured the help of MARPAC for this year's competition.

The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year. ***(Mark Rabago)***



MARK RABAGO

The two-day Budweiser July King and Queen of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held in Aug. 3 and 4 at the Saipan Bowling Center. File photo above shows 2008 PBA Bowler of the Year Rusty Musca in action at the Oleai venue.

Express seek first Finals appearance

MANILA, Philippines—Never has Air21 looked this good, so good that a first-ever championship series stint would be a just reward for the over-achieving Express.

With a 3-2 lead and momentum obviously on their side following a masterful Game 5 victory two nights ago, the Express try to wrap up their best-of-seven Smart PBA Fiesta Cup semifinal series with Magnolia Friday night at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

"We will come out hard and take it one game at a time," import Steven Thomas said after the 92-82 victory that moved the Express on the verge of finally playing for all the marbles after a long, six-year wait.

"We have a lot of respect for Magnolia, because they are a very talented team."

A piece of Philippine Basketball Association history speaks kindly of the Express' chances of advancing opposite Ginebra in another best-of-seven series. Twenty-five of the 32 teams that took a 3-2 lead after breaking a 2-2 deadlock eventually won the series.

But coach Bo Perasol is not about to rest on his laurels and ask his wards to slow down a bit. In fact, he has asked them to be even hungrier than they were before the series started.

"This is not yet over," he said, also Wednesday night. "We still have a lot of work to do."

Perasol, who took over this team from out of nowhere in 2005 and steered it to the franchise's best-ever finish of third place, may even get his wish of an "untainted" Air21 victory in the 7 p.m. game.

Dondon Hontiveros will be a game time decision, according to the Magnolia coaching staff, because of the sprained ankle that took him out of the floor after making seven points in eight minutes of the first half of Game 5.

"Personally, I wish him well," Perasol said of Hontiveros. "I honestly want him to play, so that (qualifying in the title series) will not be tainted."

Perasol may have had the guts to speak that way especially after leading a manhandling of the Beverage Masters, a rock-solid side that has labored hard and in vain against the up-tempo game of the Express.

Air21 has been like a machine in these playoffs, running whenever the opportunity presents itself and slowing down to a methodical pace when needed.

The margin of victory on Wednesday was the biggest in the last four games of the series, with the series opener an exception after Thomas left the country to attend the Cleveland Cavaliers' tryouts in the United States. ***(PDI)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	63	44	.589	_
Boston	61	48	.560	3
New York	59	49	.546	4 1/2
Toronto	54	54	.500	9 1/2
Baltimore	51	56	.477	12

Central Division

Chicago	60	47	.561	_
Minnesota	60	48	.556	1/2
Detroit	55	53	.509	5 1/2
Kansas City	50	59	.459	11
Cleveland	47	60	.439	13

West Division

Los Angeles	68	40	.630	_
Texas	56	53	.514	12 1/2
Oakland	53	54	.495	14 1/2
Seattle	41	67	.380	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	59	49	.546	_
New York	58	50	.537	1
Florida	58	51	.532	1 1/2
Atlanta	50	58	.463	9
Washington	38	70	.352	21

Central Division

Chicago	65	44	.596	_
St. Louis	61	50	.550	5
Milwaukee	60	49	.550	5
Cincinnati	51	58	.468	14
Houston	50	57	.467	14
Pittsburgh	50	58	.463	14 1/2

West Division

Arizona	56	52	.519	_
Los Angeles	54	54	.500	2
Colorado	49	61	.445	8
San Francisco	44	63	.411	11 1/2
San Diego	42	67	.385	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 11, Milwaukee 4
Florida 12, Colorado 2
Atlanta 9, St. Louis 4
Philadelphia 8, Washington 4
Arizona 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
Cleveland 9, Detroit 4
L.A. Angels 12, N.Y. Yankees 6
Seattle 8, Texas 5
Minnesota 10, Chicago White Sox 6¤

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL SCORES

FIRST ROUND

Retief Goosen	32-34	66
Tim Clark	34-33	67
Daniel Chopra	34-33	67
Vijay Singh	32-35	67
Zach Johnson	32-35	67
Chez Reavie	34-34	68
Chad Campbell	34-34	68
Rocco Mediate	32-36	68
Scott Strange	34-34	68
Stewart Cink	34-34	68
Justin Leonard	34-34	68
Phil Mickelson	34-34	68
Sean O'Hair	37-31	68
Steve Webster	33-35	68
Brandt Snedeker	34-34	68
Chris DiMarco	34-34	68
Steve Stricker	36-32	68
Jim Furyk	33-35	68
Charles Howell III	32-36	68
Brendan Jones	35-34	69
Padraig Harrington	33-36	69
Sergio Garcia	35-34	69
J.B. Holmes	36-33	69
Rory Sabbatini	35-34	69
Adam Scott	33-36	69
Ernie Els	35-34	69
Rod Pampling	36-33	69
D.J. Trahan	35-34	69
Peter Lonard	37-32	69
Ross Fisher	35-34	69
J.J. Henry	32-37	69
Richard Finch	33-36	69
Stephen Ames	36-33	69
Ian Poulter	35-35	70
Darren Clarke	33-37	70
Johnson Wagner	35-35	70
Prayad Marksaeng	36-34	70
Nick O'Hern	34-36	70
Craig Parry	33-37	70
Steve Flesch	36-34	70
Miguel A. Jimenez	35-35	70
Paul McGinley	33-37	70
Stuart Appleby	30-40	70
Graeme McDowell	37-33	70
Paul Casey	36-34	70
Lee Westwood	37-33	70
Lucas Glover	35-35	70
David Howell	36-34	70
Hunter Mahan	35-36	71
Scott Verplank	37-34	71
Anthony Kim	33-38	71
Justin Rose	35-36	71
Robert Allenby	35-36	71
Geoff Ogilvy	36-35	71
Woody Austin	32-39	71
Fredrik Jacobson	33-38	71
Robert Karlsson	35-36	71
Oliver Wilson	37-34	71
Niclas Fasth	35-36	71
Colin Montgomerie	34-38	72
Vaughn Taylor	38-34	72
Pablo Larrazabal	37-35	72
Richard Green	34-38	72
Nick Dougherty	35-37	72
David Toms	37-35	72
Boo Weekley	34-38	72
Angel Cabrera	36-36	72
Martin Kaymer	35-37	72
James Kingston	37-36	73
Henrik Stenson	37-36	73
K.J. Choi	33-40	73
Andres Romero	37-36	73
Kenny Perry	38-36	74
Steve Lowery	36-39	75
Brett Rumford	37-38	75
Hidemasa Hoshino	36-39	75
Soren Hansen	39-36	75
Trevor Immelman	40-35	75
Aaron Baddeley	38-41	79
Mark Brown	37-43	80

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WABOL

From Page 28

gural event in 1996.

Other division winners in the 2007 edition of the TOC were Gi Yeong Kim (A); Edward H. Cho (B); Gerald Guerrero (C); Ed Manibusan (Seniors); Lito Mendoza (Super Seniors); and Rose Tarpley (Ladies Low Net).

Another highlight of last year's TOC was the hole-in-one recorded by Japanese golfer Koji Hashimoto, who aced the 17th hole of Laolao's west course to win a 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer.

The 13th Tournament of Champions will have an additional category this year, as the premier golf competition in the region added a two-day double Peoria to its bevy of prizes.

The double Peoria category will have the same cash and in-kind prizes set aside as the regular categories—Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors and Super Seniors flights as well as the Ladies Low Gross.

First place in the said flights and the double Peoria category takes home $600, second place is $500, and third place is $500. Fourth place gets a DVD player, while fifth place bags a $100 gift certificate from DFS Saipan.

Aside from the regular prizes for topping the flights, golfers will have a chance to win cars, cash, and other in-kind prizes in four hole-in-one prizes.

Hole No. 17 at the east course, for instance, nets the lucky golfer a 2008 Hyundai Accent courtesy of Triple J Motors.

A 2008 Honda Civic from Joeten Motors, meanwhile, await anyone who makes a hole-in-one in the 13th hole of the east course. Aon Insurance, for its part, is putting up $50,000 each in holes No. 7 and 11, while a one-year free golf from Laolao Bay Golf Resort will be awarded for an ace in hole No. 6 of the east course.

In addition to the aforementioned prizes, five lucky players in this year's tournament will also have an opportunity to win $1 million each in this year's Million Dollar Shootout.

To enter the Million Dollar Shootout, a golfer must be a registered player in TOC. Players could purchase raffle tickets for $1 each to enter the shootout.

The tickets will be sold on Day 1 of the tournament. Five raffle tickets will be drawn and those lucky winners will have one shot each at a hole-in-one before teeing off on Aug. 3. If you are successful with the hole-in-one you will walk away with $1 million. If your ticket is not chosen, you will still be in the raffle drawing at the banquet to be held at the Saipan World Resort at 6pm on Aug. 3.

This year's TOC will mark the 13th year of the tournament on Saipan. Since its inception, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund. This money has been used for the traffic medians from Garapan to the Palms Resort Saipan, the revitalization of the Garapan special district, the enhanced beautification of the Paseo de Marianas, lighting of the Beach Pathway, landscaping on the port to path walkway and other beautification projects.

KASA

From Page 28

ment calls for winning teams to receive three points, teams ending up in a draw will have a point each, while losses account for zero points. Matches consist of 35-minute halves with a five-minute break in between.

The first game at 8am will pit Inter-Godfather's against Onwell. It will be followed by the 9:20am match between FC Arirang and Multinatinal FC. The third game set at 10:40am will then have Onwell squaring off against Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Action continues at 12pm with Women's All-Stars taking on either Multinational FC or Onwell. The 1:20pm match will then have Inter-Godfather's going up against FC Arirang, followed by the 2:40pm game between Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and Multinational FC.

At 4pm, Women's All-Stars will tackle either of the four teams—Inter-Godfather's, FC Arirang, Onwell, and Multinational FC.

The championship will then be played at 5:20pm with the Top 2 teams after the eliminations playing for Saipan Cup '08 title. The awards ceremony will then immediately follow the conclusion of the championship match at around 6:30pm.

Entry fee for the Saipan Cup 2008 tournament of KASA is $100 per team. For more information about tomorrow's one-day soccer event, call KASA at 233-4989, 285-7080, or 285-2321.

July Budweiser bowling tomorrow and Monday

The July Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes as well as the July Bing Energy Drink Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament takes place tomorrow and Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in San Jose.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Manny Ramirez to LA, Bay to BoSox

After a nasty split with the Boston Red Sox, Manny Ramirez is Hollywood-bound. The Los Angeles Dodgers acquired the enigmatic slugger Thursday, giving up two minor leaguers in a startling.

25

Wabol looks for three-peat in TOC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol tees off in the 12th Tournament of Champions. The 2008 edition of the tournament starts today at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol will have a chance to three-peat when he tees off in this weekend's 13th Tournament of Champions set at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Wabol bested 12 other golfers and tamed the east and west course at the Kagman venue last year by shooting a two-day total of 150 for a four-shot lead over closest pursuer and opening day leader Edward R. Flores 154 (75-79).

The former Oleai Elementary School principal shot a 76 in the first day of competition, but bounced back with a 74 in the final day to snatch the TOC Championship Flight title from Flores' hands.

Wabol also won the TOC Championship Flight in 1998, 2000, and 2006. For the record, Ladies Flight veteran Noriko Togawa has the most number of wins with six, including a string of five straight victories from 2001 to 2005.

Also completing her second consecutive title last year is rising teen golfer Leina Kim in the Ladies Flight. She posted a 15-stroke lead over Togawa, who won the inau-

See WABOL on Page 27

KASA's Saipan Cup 2008 starts tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Korea Amateur Sports Association will hold its Saipan Cup 2008 tournament this weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Seven teams will duke it out in the one-day competition, which awards $100 and trophy to the champion team. Second place, meanwhile, takes home $50. Organizers will also hand out hardware for the most valuable player, most goals, best defender, most improved player, and sportsmanship.

The seven teams that have signed up for the Saipan Cup 2008 tournament are Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Women's All-Stars, Inter-Godfather's, Multinational FC, FC Arirang, Onwell, and Independents Wild Bill's.

The format of the tourna-

See KASA on Page 27

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Oleai Sports Complex soccer field will again be abuzz with activity when the Korea Amateur Sports Association holds its Saipan Cup 2008 tournament this weekend. File photo above shows the CNMI and Guam men's national teams in action in the 2008 Marianas Cup.

Kimo signing autographs at new PTI Wireless Express Center

PTI will be bringing back UFC fighting legend,"Kimo" Leopoldo, for autographs and pictures today. The autograph-signing event, which will help kick off Predatory or Prey, will be held at PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan from 11pm to 12pm. This will be the last chance for fans who missed out on Thursday's signing to meet the famed mixed martial artist.

Kathryn Barry, PTI's regional marketing manager states, "We are excited to bring back Kimo, the UFC fighter, at our new Wireless Express Center for our customers who were not able to make it on Thursday. We had a great turn out and we would like to everyone every one to come and meet a world class fighter ."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ultimate Fighting Championship veteran Kimo Leopoldo and Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial sign personalized autographs for fans at PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan Thursday night.

PTI's Star Cruizer will also be making an appearance this Saturday at the Wireless Express Center from 10pm to 2pm. Trade in your TDMA phone for a Motorola 315 for $50 or a Sanyo 8300 for $75. The Motorola c139 is going for as low as $40 and the Motorola V557 for $75.

German-born Hawaiian native, Kimo, made his fighting debut in 1994's UFC III against UFC I & II Champion Royce Gracie. Since then, he has participated in over 15.

PTI is proud to sponsor Gorilla Warfare's mixed martial arts debut on Saipan. Predator or Prey will be held this Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008 at World Resort featuring fights among some of the island's favorites. Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo will take on Slade "the Rage" Adelbai in what is sure to be an even fight. Fans will also be treated to the main event between Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Charleston "The Predator" Aiken. A special appearance by UFC Veteran, Kimo, is sure to make this an explosive event. ***(PR)***

King and Queen of the Diamond draws six teams

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Six teams are entered in this weekend's second leg of the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament.

Tournament coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the six teams are led by first leg champion Shell Marianas and runner-up SaiPal as well as Total Chaos, Sufa, On Da Rox, and Natibu.

The second leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond will be held this Saturday and Sunday at the Capital Hill Field.

The first game will start at 10am today with Total Chaos taking on Sufa. It will be followed by the 11am match between SaiPal and On Da Rox.

Shell Marianas will then kickoff the afternoon games at 1pm when it squares off against the winner of the Total Chaos-Sufa match in the first game. Natibu likewise will battle the winner of the second game between SaiPal and On Da Rox at 2pm.

While the double-elimination phase of the two-day tournament will continue on Sunday, Dela Cruz said the 2008 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond's homerun derby will kick off at 1pm on the same day.

Entry fee for the homerun derby is $10 with the winner taking home 10 percent of the total pot plus a live pig. The championship game, according to Dela Cruz, is expected to get underway starting at 3pm.

The first leg of the King and Queen of the Diamond was held last May 17 and 18 with Shell Marianas, the former No Ka Oi, winning the championship after beating SaiPal in the title game.

Other teams that took part in the first leg of the tournament were second runner-up Team Chaos, Peligru, Jamack How, PPP Jets, Coral Reef Red Snappers, Team Sufa, and Shell Made to Move.

The winners of the first, second, and third legs of the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond will play each other in the championship round to determine the overall champion, which will represent Saipan in a tournament in Palau later in the year.

MARPAC, the exclusive distributor of Budweiser on Saipan, will pay for the tickets of all 15 players of the winning team bound for Palau.

For more information about the Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamond Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Tournament, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503 or 287-6509.